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ONLINE

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the anchor's complete
recorded comments
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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

WAR ON TERRORISM

US-backed Iraqi forces face risky urban battle

By MISSY RYAN
AND MUSTAFA SALIM
The Washington Post

The Obama administration has touted the modest successes in recent months of Iraqi forces and paramilitary fighters, backed by U.S. air power, as they have fought to wrest towns, villages and parts of Iraq's rugged countryside from the Islamic State.

Now, the renewed U.S. campaign in Iraq faces a greater challenge as American advisers scramble to prepare Iraqi forces for an offensive to reclaim some of Iraq's most important cities, which remain under the militant group's control.

Attempting to take back Mosul, the country's second-largest city, as well as Tikrit and Fallujah, will test not only the fighting power of Iraqi forces and the country's fragile sectarian compact but also President Barack Obama's indirect strategy for containing the Islamic State.

A U.S. official in Baghdad, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the evolving campaign, said the United States and a coalition of Arab and other allies are "on a steady progression of effectiveness" in six months of air strikes against the Islamic State.

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INSIDE

Ex-Taliban leader who
joined Islamic State
reportedly killed

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Suicide attack,
bombing kill at least
22 in Iraq's capital

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Diplomatic offensive

South Korean President
Park Geun-hye has made
cooperation with the North a top
priority. But is reunification
a realistic possibility?

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ILLUSTRATION BY NOGA AMI-RAW/Stars and Stripes

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The time has come to say what officials admit when the microphones are turned off and say out in the open. ... At some point someone has to say 'No' and that role has fallen to us, little Greece."

— Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis, who called a \$270 billion bailout package crafted by Greece's lenders a "toxic fantasy" that had always been doomed to fail

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Deaf rapper makes himself heard



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WAR/MILITARY

Marine goes to trial years after vanishing in Iraq

The Associated Press

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — The trial was set to begin Monday at Camp Lejeune, N.C., for a Marine who vanished in Iraq a decade ago and then wound up in Lebanon.

Defense attorneys maintain Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun was kidnapped in 2004 by insurgents and later became tangled up in Lebanese courts. Prosecutors allege Hassoun fled his post because he was unhappy with his deployment and how U.S. troops treated Iraqis.

A September report from the military equivalent of a grand jury hearing acknowledges prosecutors could have a hard time tracking down witnesses from a

decade ago.

The case began when Hassoun disappeared from a base in Fallujah in June 2004. Days later, he appeared blindfolded and with a sword poised above his head in a photo purportedly taken by insurgents. An extremist group claimed to be holding him captive.

Not long after that, Hassoun turned up unharmed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, saying he'd been kidnapped. But officials were suspicious, and he was brought back to Camp Lejeune while the military considered charging him with desertion and counts related to a pistol and a Humvee he's accused of taking.

Hassoun's case occupies some of the same murky territory as

that of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, a soldier who left his post in Afghanistan and was held by the Taliban for five years. The Army is considering what, if any, charges or punishment Bergdahl should face.

A lawyer for Hassoun, Haytham Faraj, questioned why his client's case is heading to trial when many unauthorized absences are handled administratively.

"To me, it doesn't seem very fair," Faraj said in a recent telephone interview.

An expert on military law agreed that most servicemen accused of leaving their posts receive administrative punishment. But Philip Cave, a retired Navy lawyer now in private practice,



STEVE HELBER/AP

Marine Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun, shown in 2004, was to go on trial Monday on charges related to leaving his post in Iraq.

said Hassoun's multiple absences — including one shortly before he faced a court hearing — may explain why his case is being handled with a trial.

Hassoun, a native of Lebanon who is a naturalized American citizen, enlisted in the Marine Corps in January 2002 and served as an Arabic translator.

Jury selection to start in 'American Sniper' slaying case

By JAMIE STENGLE
The Associated Press

STEPHENVILLE, Texas — Jury selection was to begin Monday in the trial of the man accused of fatally shooting a former Navy SEAL who was depicted in the Oscar-nominated film "American Sniper."

More than 260 potential jurors are set to report to district court in the Texas town of Stephenville, southwest of Fort Worth. Former Marine Eddie Ray Routh is charged with capital murder in the deaths of Chris Kyle, 38, and Kyle's friend, Chad Littlefield, 35, two years ago at a luxury resort's shooting range in a rural area about 25 miles southeast of Stephenville. The trial is expected to start Wednesday.

The film "American Sniper" is based on Kyle's 2012 memoir. He left the Navy in 2009 after four tours in Iraq.



Routh



PAUL MOSELEY, FORT WORTH (TEXAS) STAR-TELEGRAM/AP

Chris Kyle, former Navy SEAL and author of "American Sniper," holds a weapon in Midlothian, Texas, in April 2012. The man accused of shooting him to death in 2013 goes on trial this week.

Judge Jason Cashon told potential jurors during a jury qualification process last week that they wouldn't be dismissed just for seeing the movie or reading the book.

Instead of a typical Erath County jury pool of 175, about 800 people were summoned for possible

jury duty, district clerk Wanda Pringle has said. Several hundred people who weren't eliminated due to exemptions or other factors took part in last week's screening. The group was narrowed during that process after potential jurors were dismissed for a variety of reasons, including some who said

pretrial publicity had already led them to a decision in the case.

Defense attorneys plan to pursue an insanity defense. Prosecutors won't seek the death penalty, but will ask for a sentence of life in prison without parole if Routh is convicted.

Family members have said Routh, 27, struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder after leaving the Marines in 2010. The small-arms technician served in Iraq and was deployed to earthquake-ravaged Haiti. Kyle took Routh to the shooting range after Routh's mother asked if he could help her son.

About two hours after they arrived at Rough Creek Lodge and Resort on Feb. 2, 2013, an employee discovered the bodies of Kyle and Littlefield at the remote range.

In the meantime, authorities say Routh drove to his sister's house in Kyle's truck, telling her and her husband that he'd killed Kyle and Littlefield.

His sister told police that Routh "was out of his mind, saying people were sucking his soul and that he could smell the pigs."

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MILITARY

Kosovo death ruled suicide

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Nine months after Army Staff Sgt. Heidi Ruh died at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command has ruled her death a suicide.

Ruh died May 9 from a “noncombat related incident,” officials said when her death was announced. They said the exact cause was under investigation. The Army investigation was completed Jan. 20.

“Based on the totality of the investigation, to include the evaluation of evidence, death scene examination, interviews, and the final autopsy and toxicology reports conducted by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, as well as the legal opinion, our investigation determined that SGT Ruh’s manner of death was suicide and the cause was an intraoral gunshot wound,” Army CID spokesman Christopher Grey said in an email.

Ruh joined the military in January 2003 as a biomedical equipment specialist. Assigned to 1st Medical Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, she deployed to Kosovo in January 2014 and was attached to Kosovo Force’s Multinational Battle Group-East.

When asked why the investigation of Ruh’s death took more than eight months, Grey replied in part: “CID Special Agents go to great lengths to treat and process all death investigations in a timely manner with special attention to detail to ensure we have an accurate account of exactly what transpired. ... Even in cases where the appearance of the death scene is strongly consistent with suicide, the CID will list the death as undetermined and conduct a ‘homicide investigation,’ since a subsequent investigation may turn up evidence to the contrary. Additionally, investigative leads and witnesses can often lead our agents all over the U.S. or to different corners of the world due to the very nature of the Army environment, the mobile population and the mission.”

Ruh was 32. Her home of record was listed as Barrington, Ill.

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Soldier killed in training accident

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Justin L. Holt, 31, was killed and six other soldiers injured Friday night when a Stryker armored vehicle they were traveling in rolled over during training at Fort Carson, Colo., Army officials said Sunday.

Holt, 31, of Bogota, Texas, was assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. The unit had been in the area for several days of platoon situational training as part of their preparation for a combined arms live-fire exercise.

Holt and the six other soldiers were in a Stryker at a southern training range at Fort Carson when the accident happened; officials said they are investigating the cause of the rollover.

Four of the injured soldiers were treated and released, and one is expected to be released soon. Officials said the sixth has a serious injury but is in stable condition.

Holt, a cavalry scout, joined the Army on April 13, 2004, and had deployed to Iraq twice and Kuwait once.

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JAMES MARCHETTI/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Chinese and U.S. soldiers stand in formation during the column-raising ceremony for a new facility at Ban Nhong-Plong Elementary School in Chai Badan district, Thailand, on Jan. 24.

US-Thai exercise gets underway

Cobra Gold begins despite diplomatic row caused by US official’s critical remarks

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

Some 3,600 U.S. servicemembers are participating in Cobra Gold 2015 amid a diplomatic row that could have long-term repercussions on the security picture in Southeast Asia.

The long-running annual exercise, which had its ceremonial kickoff Monday, never seemed to be in doubt despite U.S. concerns over host nation Thailand’s military coup last May.

The U.S. values Thailand’s location and well-equipped bases as strategically critical, while Thailand values access to U.S. tactics and procedures.

This year’s exercise will feature less live-fire and more humanitarian operations, but that won’t bother most of the roughly two dozen participant and observer nations, who value Cobra Gold largely for the relationships they can forge with each other.

Despite the apparent triumph of pragmatism at Cobra Gold, the strident Thai objections over Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel’s critical remarks of the military junta during a visit to Bangkok last month shouldn’t be dismissed as political theater.

Thailand, like many other nations in the region, is determining how to balance its interests between the United States and China. The recent perceived slight by Russel could slowly push Thailand closer to China’s camp, said Anthony Davis, a Bangkok-based analyst with IHS-Jane’s Military and Security Assessments.

“In a decade or 15 years, this may be seen as a watershed moment in a mutual recalibration of the (U.S.-Thai) relationship, which will entail a downgrading,” Davis said.

Russel bluntly discussed the coup and prosecution of Thailand’s democratically elected government, which the military

and political opponents viewed as corrupt, during his Jan. 26 speech at Chulalongkorn University and in a subsequent television interview.

“Ending martial law throughout the country and removing restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly are important steps as part of a genuinely inclusive reform process that reflects the broad diversity of views within the country,” Russel said during his speech.

“A loss of face in this country is a cardinal sin. ... It is hugely important here.”

Anthony Davis
IHS-Jane’s

His comments likely wouldn’t have been considered so harsh had they been made in private, or through a spokesman in Washington. Secretary of State John Kerry and others have criticized the Thai government for crackdowns on protesters and media, book bans and other actions.

However, Thais perceived Russel as an invited guest who criticized his host. Even some Thais opposed to the military coup were angered by his comments, Davis said.

“A loss of face in this country is a cardinal sin. ... It is hugely important here,” Davis said.

After Russel’s departure, Thai officials summoned the U.S. Embassy’s charge d’affaires to express their displeasure.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the general who led the coup, called Russel’s comments a big disappointment.

“It saddens me that the United States does not understand the reason why I had to intervene and does not understand the way we work, even though we have been close allies for years,” he told reporters.

Last week, Prayuth pointedly thanked China for understanding how Thailand

works.

He met with China Defense Minister Chang Wanquan and announced a new intelligence-sharing agreement, according to media reports.

Wanquan said China has no plans to interfere with the military regime, according to the Bangkok Post.

China and the U.S. are among each other’s most important trading partners. The two nations also engage in limited military exchanges, for example, some of their servicemembers just collaborated on a humanitarian project in Thailand.

However, the two nations have vastly different visions of the future direction of the Asia-Pacific region.

China’s ambiguous claims on nearly 90 percent of the South China Sea conflict with the interpretation of international law accepted by the U.S. and most other nations. Beijing’s claims — backed by threats of force — on islands in the region either administered or claimed by U.S. allies have increased tensions. The decades-long U.S. protection of Taiwan from invasion by China simmers in the background.

Thailand has no territorial squabble with China and stands to benefit from its increasing capabilities. This could lead to a “gradual recalibration” of its security relationships, Davis said.

However, Thailand doesn’t have to choose one side. It gains regional prestige from hosting Cobra Gold and technical help fighting its southern insurgency from the United States, among other benefits. Thailand exported \$27 billion in trade to the U.S. last year, a slight increase from 2013.

“This is still a couple that have got a lot in common and (have) spent a lot of time together,” Davis said of the U.S. and Thailand. “I don’t think anybody in any sense is signaling the possibility of divorce.”

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MILITARY

In his own words: Williams talks to Stars and Stripes

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — “NBC Nightly News” anchor Brian Williams on Sunday scuttled what would have been his first public appearance to explain his situation when he canceled a planned appearance on the “Late Show with David Letterman.”

Williams has answered questions about the Iraq incident — how he ended up telling a war story he now admits was false — only during an interview with Stars and Stripes.

The embattled anchor published a Facebook apology to troops after claiming he was in a Chinook forced down by rocket-propelled grenade fire in 2003, addressed the issue on air Wednesday, and issued a brief statement over the weekend saying he will temporarily leave the news desk while NBC investigates.

Questions have also arisen around statements he made about reporting on Hurricane Katrina from New Orleans in 2005 and Israel’s war with the militant group Hezbollah in 2006.

As NBC investigates and Williams keeps out of the public eye while his place as one of the most watched and trusted television news reporters in the country remains uncertain, Stars and Stripes is publishing on its website a full transcript of the Feb. 4 interview in which the anchor ad-

For a full audio and transcript of the Williams interview, go to starsandstripes.com/brianwilliams

mits he was never on the attacked helicopter and claims he was unaware his flight was not directly behind but actually far from the company that was hit.

Here is a partial transcript of Stars and Stripes’ interview, edited for space.

Stars and Stripes: Speaking to these veterans today, all of them told me they couldn’t understand how you could misremember what aircraft you were on or whether your aircraft was hit, so I’m just wondering how that could happen?

Williams: Same reasoning in reverse. It was my first engagement of the war and, remember, I was and we were all, I think, scared. I have yet to meet the veteran who doesn’t admit to cinching up a little bit when it starts, and it all became a fog of getting down on the ground. What do you do now? ... So, a professional will look at this differently. They go into a kind of hyper-drive. I did what a civilian, an untrained civilian, would do in that instance and it was being scared. I think anyone in my shoes would admit that. It could not have been a more foreign environment. All we knew is we had been fired upon. All we knew was he had set



Brian Barnett, INVISION/AP

Brian Williams speaks at the 8th Annual Stand Up For Heroes, presented by the New York Comedy Festival and The Bob Woodruff Foundation, in New York on Nov. 5.

down, and then with the arrival of the sandstorm. How do we defend our little desert bivouac area?

I had multiple guys tell me that they remember immediately after this the news coverage — this was within days of the incident. They said you and NBC had reported in those first broadcasts that you were on the aircraft that came under attack. So is that not true?

No, I think I correctly reported, as I did in my blog in ‘08, that I was on the aircraft behind the one that was hit. Because I knew we had all come under fire, I guess I had assumed that all of the airframes took some damage because we all went down. Also, remember, adding to the fear of the moment was the fact that our load master let loose our cargo, so you go through this over-torque where you rise in the air before you settle despite what was some

dandy piloting by the crews of all three aircraft. It was like landing on the surface of the moon, and I’m going to have a far different recollection than that of the professionals.

I was told by one of the crew members who was actually on your Chinook that you were an hour behind this grouping of three Chinooks that were out in the front, and that those three Chinooks out in the front came under fire and the middle one was hit.

And that’s the first I’ve heard of that. I did not think we were in trail by that far. I think that’s probably a good question for Tim [Terpak, a retired soldier featured in the NBC broadcast where Williams claimed he was on the attacked Chinook], who I now learn witnessed the overflight. But I could not see in front of us. But I thought we were just in one flotilla, for lack of a better

word. That’s the first time I’ve heard that.

Is NBC going to do anything on the air to kind of correct the record?

I don’t know. I’ll talk to my boss. I am certainly willing. Again, it’s very basic — I would not have chosen to make this mistake. I don’t know what screw-up in my mind that caused me to conflate one aircraft from the other. The fact is, I remember three aircraft going down. I was on one of them. An additional aircraft aside from ours took an RPG through the rear housing above the ramp, and it was our first engagement of the war, a trip that eventually brought me to downtown Baghdad. This is what I said to you earlier; my war experience in no way matches that of the professional soldiers who we were traveling with.

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Williams told varying versions of rocket fire in Israel-Hezbollah war

By Paul Farhi
The Washington Post

NBC News anchor Brian Williams certainly has placed himself in dangerous situations in covering wars and natural disasters over the years. But how much danger? With Williams, the answer varies.

In addition to statements about his reporting from Iraq and New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina that are under review by NBC, Williams has given varying accounts of the risks he faced in reporting on Israel’s war with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah in 2006.

In a 2007 interview, Williams described a close encounter with rockets fired by Hezbollah as he flew over northern Israel in an Israeli military helicopter.

“There were Katyusha rockets passing just beneath the helicopter I was riding in,” he told a student interviewer from Fairfield (Conn.) University that year.

But Williams didn’t mention that in his own account of the helicopter trip, written on an NBC News blog in July the previous year.

In that version, he was in a Blackhawk helicopter “at 1,500 feet,” accompanied by “a high-ranking general in the Israeli Defense Forces” and that rocket fire preceded them rather than passed beneath them.

Williams wrote that the pilot reported “some shelling right now . . . They landed about 30 seconds ago.”

Williams wrote that he noticed “trails of smoke and dust” where rockets had landed in the countryside. “Then,” he wrote, “I noticed something out the window. From a distance of six miles, I witnessed a rocket launch. A rising trail of smoke, then a second rocket launch, an orange flash and more smoke — as a rocket heads off toward Israel.”

The description suggests that Williams’ helicopter was near the rockets but does

not claim the weapons were flying “just beneath” his airborne vehicle.

The anchorman offered more details a few weeks later in August 2006, during an appearance on “The Daily Show.”

“Here’s a view of rockets I have never seen, passing underneath us, 1,500 feet beneath us. And we’ve got the gunner doors on this thing, and I’m saying to the general, some four-star: ‘It wouldn’t take much for them to adjust the aim and try to do a ring toss right through our open doors, would it?’”

He ended the interview by telling Stewart, “Anytime you want to cross over to the other side, baby, travel with me.”

In other tales of danger in which he was a protagonist, there also tend to be variations.

His story about traveling in a U.S. Army helicopter at the start of the Iraq War changed gradually over the years until Williams said the aircraft was attacked with

gun and rocket fire and forced to make a hasty landing. He said the pilot of the craft was wounded in the attack and received a Purple Heart.

That story was disputed by soldiers who said Williams’ helicopter was never attacked and the crew was not hurt. It set in motion a rapid chain of events. Williams apologized and then voluntarily took himself off his top-rated broadcast, “NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams,” for an unspecified period, saying the controversy about his remarks had become a distraction.

NBC says it is reviewing Williams’ statements. It has not announced any disciplinary action.

On Sunday, people at NBC said Williams will not appear on David Letterman’s talk show on CBS as previously scheduled on Thursday. Williams did not want to appear on that show while he was off the job at NBC, they said.

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PACIFIC

S. Korea makes reunification overtures to North

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea—Even as the U.S. and South Korea prepare for their annual spring war games, a diplomatic offensive is taking place as Seoul presses for talks with the North and outlines steps it hopes will lead to reunification.

Last week, South Korea announced a series of measures it plans to undertake this year to increase cooperation with the North and lay the groundwork for the two Koreas to reunite—even if the two sides will likely never agree to the other's terms to make it so.

The measures include events to mark the 70th anniversary of the Korean peninsula's liberation from Japanese rule, increased class time on "unification education" and trial runs of an inter-Korean and trans-continental railway.

President Park Geun-hye also has urged the North to agree to reunions around the Feb. 19 Lunar New Year's holiday for family members separated since the 1950-53 Korean War.

While reunification is one of Park's signature policy initiatives, some experts question whether her call for the first inter-Korean summit since 2007 is aimed more at Pyongyang or at South Korean voters.

Kim Joon Hyung, a professor of international politics at Handong Global University in Pohang, said Park's focus on reunification as she enters her third year in office may be designed to counteract her declining approval rating and growing lame-duck status. South Korean presidents serve a single five-year term.

"People here are very interested in reunification, so her appeals for reunification may be welcomed," he said, adding that he expects Park's calls for dialogue to go nowhere.

There are big questions about how a peaceful reunification could occur without major concessions by both sides. The two countries have drifted apart for the last 60 years, and their political and economic systems are almost polar opposites.

Asked if the North's vision for reunification is the same as the South's, a Ministry of Unification spokesman said, "We don't grasp what North Koreans want."

Stalemate

Yang Mu-jin, a political science professor at the University of North Korea Studies in Seoul, believes Pyongyang is considering dialogue with Seoul not to leverage aid or gain official recognition as a nuclear power, as some have speculated, but in hopes of using talks as a stepping stone to improved relations with other players in the region—including China and the U.S.—which would help stabilize Kim's rule.

Ultimately, Yang doesn't expect inter-Korean talks to take place because neither side—a North Korea that claims to want unity under its own brand of communism and a South Korea that wants to reunify under a liberal



A man watches a TV news program Monday at Seoul Railway Station in South Korea showing footage of a missile launch conducted by the North. On Sunday, North Korea test-fired five short-range missiles, its second such weapons test this year.

Launch of 5 missiles into sea may demonstrate improved capability

BY ERIK SLAVIN
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

North Korea's launch of five missiles may be more than just a typical response ahead of an annual U.S.-South Korea military exercises, analysts and officials said Monday.

The missiles, which flew about 125 miles Sunday before splashing down off North Korea's eastern coast, seemed to demonstrate improved capabilities, said Yang UK, senior researcher with the Korea Defense and Security Forum.

The surface-to-surface missiles appear to be a quasi-ballistic copy of a Russian model that can change path while flying, he said.

"That its missile ranges are getting longer probably implies that the North might have USFK's Camp Pyeongtaek and

Osan Air Base in its inland shooting range," Yang said. "I think we're going to need to be more careful about it."

South Korea's Defense Ministry did not issue a formal statement regarding the missile launches. Instead, officials texted comments to individual reporters.

"The Ministry of National Defense is trying to understand North Korea's intention or motive now," one message said. "Our military is... keeping a close eye on the status of the North Korean military, while we beef up U.S.-South Korea combined surveillance readiness."

A ministry spokesman told Stars and Stripes that a final assessment of the missiles could take several months and won't be made public.

North Korean rhetoric, followed by demonstrations of

military power, aren't unusual before a major bilateral military exercise involving the U.S. and South Korea, which soon will hold Key Resolve and Foal Eagle.

Last month, South Korean President Park Geun-hye announced she would like to hold talks without preconditions with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. North Korea responded by saying the bilateral exercises had to be canceled as a precondition, which Seoul ruled out.

The missile launch also precedes the anniversary of the founding of North Korea's armed forces, Yang noted.

"Inside the North, the country probably wanted to show to its people that their country is powerful to such an extent as to fire those missiles," Yang said.

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New Year's address.

"I think the North is pretty serious, but they don't want to look like they're being taken to the cleaners or pushed there," said David Garretson, a professor of international relations at the University of Maryland University College in Seoul, who said back-channel discussions on a summit may be taking place.

'I think the North is pretty serious (about reuniting), but they don't want to look like they're being taken to the cleaners or pushed there.'

David Garretson
University of Maryland University College in Seoul

He noted that the South Korean government has pushed activist groups to stop launching balloons

carrying anti-North Korean materials, including DVDs, over the border, a particular irritant to Pyongyang.

Pyongyang's apparent willingness to consider talks may be tied to the third anniversary last month of Kim Jong Il's death, a symbolic marker that may have freed his son to create his own policy agenda rather than follow in his footsteps.

"He can reach out on his own without insulting his father in terms of his death," Garretson said. "Basically, he can take his own initiatives and do his own thing, which is related to the fact that he's got pretty solid control right now."

Pyongyang said recently it wants reunification this year, though it has not offered details. Last week, the North called for the South to create conditions for dialogue, claiming the upcoming joint exercises and launching of anti-Kim leaflets across the Demilitarized Zone were hampering things, according to South Korea's Yonhap News.

The National Defense Commission statement, posted on the North's official Korean Central News Agency's website, warned that it would "resolutely punish" the South if Seoul did not give in to the North's conditions for talks.

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democratic system—can budget from its position.

Meanwhile, the joint Foal Eagle and Key Resolve exercises are scheduled to begin in early March. The U.S. and South Korea call them defensive in nature, but the North blasts them as acts of war and typically levies a barrage of threats at the two countries during that period.

During last year's exercises, the North conducted several rocket and ballistic missile launches,

and the two Koreas fired hundreds of shells across their disputed maritime border.

In 2013, a series of North Korean threats during the spring exercises heightened tensions to the point that the U.S. flew nuclear-capable B-52s over the peninsula on a practice mission. The U.S. beefed up its missile defense systems and conducted other shows of force that included F-22 fighters and a nuclear attack sub, while South Korea warned it

would respond with force to even a small provocation.

Earlier this month, the North offered to halt its nuclear testing in exchange for cancellation of the drills, an offer that analysts say the allies almost certainly will reject and which Washington called a veiled threat.

Still, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who succeeded his father and grandfather, has left the door open for a possible summit, floating the idea in his annual

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Ex-detainee with Islamic State ties reported slain

By CARLO MUNOZ
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The former Guantanamo detainee allegedly responsible for trying to bring the Islamic State into southern Afghanistan was killed Monday in Helmand province, Afghan intelligence officials and police said.

A convey carrying Mullah Abdul Rauf and several other Afghan Taliban fighters was hit by an airstrike while traveling in the Kajaki district in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, officials said.

Other media outlets have reported that

the attack was a drone strike, but that has not been confirmed by the NATO-led coalition.

Armando Perez, spokesman for the Resolute Support mission, confirmed that coalition forces conducted a "precision strike in Helmand province. The strike resulted in the death of eight individuals threatening the force," he said. He did not identify Rauf as a target.

Rauf, a former high-ranking Taliban commander, began recruiting recently for the Islamic State in southern Afghanistan, according to media reports. Rauf "was one of the major targets of [Afghanistan's]

security forces for over the past month" because of his reported ties to the Islamic State, Afghanistan's intelligence agency said Monday in a statement.

"And fortunately he was eliminated in this operation," the National Directorate of Security said.

"It is a great achievement that he was targeted before he was able to start attacks" in southern Afghanistan, Farid Obaid, provincial spokesman for the Afghan National Police in Helmand, said.

A former corps commander responsible for Taliban fighters in Kabul and Herat during the group's rein in Afghanistan

in the 1990s, Rauf was a U.S. detainee at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, until his release back to Afghanistan in 2007.

Another former Guantanamo detainee, Abdul Rahim Muslim Dost, had been identified by Pakistani intelligence as the Islamic State's so-called emir in eastern Afghanistan. Dost has publicly renounced such claims but has expressed his solidarity with the Iraq- and Syria-based terrorist group.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
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Syria says it does not need Jordan's help vs. militants

By ZEINA KARAM
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syria's foreign minister on Monday criticized neighboring Jordan, which recently stepped up airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Syria, and said his country does not need outside help in battling Islamic State militants.

Walid al-Moallem also told reporters that Damascus will not accept Jordanian or other foreign ground troops crossing into Syria to fight the Islamic State group.

There has been no mention of any international troops offering to go into Syria to fight the Islamic State. However, Jordan has vowed to retaliate harshly for the slaying of one of its pilots, who was burned alive by Islamic State group militants last week.

"We will not allow anyone to violate our national sovereignty and we do not need any ground troops to fight Daesh," al-Moallem said, using the Arabic acronym for the extremist group. "The Syrian Arab government is fully capable of fighting Daesh valiantly and we don't need any other troops."

Al-Moallem spoke at a joint news conference with Belarusian counterpart Vladimir Makei in

the Syrian capital.

Jordan is a member of a U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State in Syria. The Syrian government describes the campaign of airstrikes as illegitimate because it has not been coordinated with the Syrian government.

Syrian government forces are fighting Islamic State militants on the ground but have lost about a third of the country to the extremist group. Government troops are also battling opposition fighters from an array of rebel groups fighting to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Al-Moallem said Syria offered to coordinate with the Jordanian government in fighting terrorism but received no response.

He accused Jordan of allowing "terrorists" a government term for all opposition fighters seeking to topple Assad — to cross into Syria after training them in camps in Jordan overseen by the United States. The CIA has said it is running a rebel training program in Jordan.

Al-Moallem claimed that Jordan, "which fights the Islamic State group along with the international coalition, doesn't fight" against Syria's main al-Qaida branch, called the Nusra Front, along its borders.



PROVIDED BY THE JORDANIAN MILITARY VIA ROYA TV/AP

A Jordanian air force pilot raises his arm as he taxis his jet Wednesday at Mowafak Al-Salti airbase in Azraq, Jordan.

Report: Afghan police-Taliban ties under investigation

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's national spy service is investigating the police force in Kunduz, a northern province that has fallen prey to criminal gangs, The New York Times reported Sunday.

So far, at least 32 police officers have come under suspicion, a member of parliament from Kunduz, Abdul Wadud Paiman, and other officials told The Times. Of those, more than a dozen police officers have been arrested,

including several senior commanders, a spokesman for the governor, Wasi Basili, said. Others have been fired or suspended.

Mullah Mujahid, a Taliban commander in Kunduz province, was arrested last month. Under interrogation, the Times wrote, Mujahid began describing how police officers helped Taliban fighters, sometimes selling them ammunition, other times tipping them off to impending police operations, and began naming names, Paiman said.

The number of officers involved

makes it one of the most significant corruption investigations within the national police force in years, the Times wrote. Although the police force in Afghanistan has a reputation for corruption, charges are rare.

Security in the province, which shares a border with Tajikistan, has worsened in recent years. By some estimates, Kunduz has about 3,000 armed militiamen, the paper reported.

By late last year, with most foreign troops departed, the Taliban effectively controlled two of the

districts in Kunduz. President Ashraf Ghani has declared Kunduz a priority and appointed a new governor and security officials for the province. The army sent in troop reinforcements from a neighboring province.

It is not entirely clear why the most recent arrest of Mujahid, in mid-January, turned out so differently from his previous arrests. Paiman is reported as saying.

Mujahid, 30, whose actual name is Anwar ul Haq, remains in custody, Paiman said, the Times. "Mullah Mujahid con-

fessed in the interrogation and named who helped them from within the police."

For the moment, it is not entirely clear whether investigators believe Mujahid's allegations are credible. But the accusations against the officers go beyond selling ammunition, a not uncommon form of corruption, officials said.

Some have been accused of "sending information to the militants so that the Taliban could plan their attacks or ambushes," Basil told the Times.

WAR ON TERRORISM

22 dead, dozens hurt in pair of Baghdad attacks

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Attacks in Baghdad killed at least 22 people and wounded dozens on Monday.

In the first attack, a suicide bomber set off an explosive vent in a busy Baghdad intersection crowded with rush-hour commuters early, killing at least 18 people.

The bombing in Adan Square, located in a predominantly Shiite part of the capital, appeared to be the latest in a near-daily string of attacks by Sunni Islamic extremists targeting the country's Shiite majority.

A police officer who provided the death toll said the attack also wounded 42 people.

Hours later, a bomb ripped through a commercial area in the capital's northeastern suburb of Hussainiyah, killing four civilians and wounding nine, another

police officer said.

Two medical officials confirmed the casualty figures.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

The attacks came two days after Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi lifted a midnight-to-5 a.m. curfew in the capital that had been in place in various forms since 2004, when Iraq was engulfed in violence following the U.S.-led invasion the year before.

The government has struggled to impose security following the 2011 withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Last summer, the Islamic State group, which has claimed several previous attacks in and around the capital, swept across a third of the country, capturing the second-largest city, Mosul.

A U.S.-led coalition has been carrying out airstrikes against the extremist group since August.



Broken glass is visible at the site of a suicide bombing at Adan Square, in a predominantly Shiite part of Baghdad, on Monday. The attack and one later Monday in a suburb killed at least 22 people.

Urban: Fight for cities requires training Iraqis in new skills

FROM FRONT PAGE

"To win this thing, we're going to have to have Iraq ground troops go into the places that are being held by Daesh," the official said, using the Arabic name for the militant group. "You're not going to win this just with airstrikes."

The Islamic State easily captured Mosul last June after Iraqi soldiers abandoned their posts in droves. The rise of the militant group led to a change of government in Baghdad and galvanized an international coalition to support Iraqi forces with airstrikes.

The fighting that followed — between the well-armed militants on one side and a mix of Iraqi forces, Kurdish peshmerga, Shiite militiamen and volunteers on the other — has taken place mainly outside Iraq's largest cities.

Some fighting has occurred in urban areas. Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, and Baiji, a small city that is home to an Islamic State, said another U.S. official. "But we certainly don't want to have the Iraqis go into those types of fight without the proper organizational structure, without the resources needed, such that they'll succeed."

U.S. officials plan to help Iraq prepare by providing soldiers from

some of the country's best military units with enhanced training in skills they will need in an urban setting: house-to-house fighting, handling improvised bombs, identifying booby traps and protecting against sniper fire. Ordinary obstacles such as narrow streets or low-hanging power lines make it harder to maneuver.

Sending soldiers into Iraq's chaotic cityscapes to root out adversaries is painstaking work, requiring precision as troops progressively clear tightly populated areas and identify targets for air or artillery attacks.

"The difference between the open, rural context and the urban context is night and day," said Nate Freier, a researcher at the Army War College who served twice in Iraq, "especially if you're talking about close-in operations,

where threats are ... right around the corner and you really don't know they're there until you get to them."

While U.S. forces honed those skills during the last Iraq war, the Iraqi military, which was rebuilt from scratch after 2003, has much less experience in urban fighting, said retired Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, who commanded the U.S. effort to train Iraqi forces in 2008 and 2009. He said the goal of that training was largely to build up security institutions and train Iraq's army in external defense.

"Urban fighting is going city to city, street to street, building to building, room to room," Helmick said. "Our goal was to get the army out of the cities in order to allow them to help secure the borders."

In general, said Ahmed Ali, a senior fellow at the Education for Peace in Iraq Center, "this was not part of their mandate, and they were heavily reliant on U.S. forces to engage in urban battles from 2004 to 2008."

The same will not be true in 2015. Obama, intent on limiting U.S. involvement in Middle Eastern conflicts, has ruled out sending U.S. troops into combat. That will make the performance of Iraqi forces critical to his plan to indirectly battle the Islamic State.

The biggest test promises to be Mosul, which became a hotbed for the Sunni insurgency after 2003. Many of the city's residents have fled, and those who remain live under the Islamic State's austere rule. As militants prepare for an

offensive expected to begin as early as this spring, the group is hardening its defenses in the city.

"Mosul is simply going to be hard," said Jessica Lewis McFate, a former Army intelligence officer at the Institute for the Study of War, especially if militants try to draw attacking forces into the city "and sink them" there.

"It's going to be a difficult fight," said a U.S. defense official. "It's important that when (Iraqi forces) do it, it's a decisive fight."

U.S. officials say no decisions have been made about the timing of an attempt to recapture Mosul or other cities, or about the make-up of the force that will be sent there.

The sensitivity of the latter question underscores the delicate position of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. Much of the heavy fighting against the Islamic State has been done by Kurdish peshmerga forces and Iranian-backed Shiite militias and volunteers. But deploying Kurdish or Shiite fighters into largely Sunni Arab Mosul would be a risky move, potentially undermining any local support for the operation. In recent weeks, Iraq has been gripped by reports that militiamen have carried out sectarian killings.

Urban offensives may require a shift in U.S. air tactics as well. Because dropping bombs on a major city would increase the odds of striking civilians, U.S. military officials may request White House permission to send air controllers closer to the front lines.

Iraqi says more needed to stop Islamic State

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A senior Iraqi official says the contributions from the U.S.-led coalition helping Baghdad push back Islamic State militants are not sufficient to meet the threat posed by the extremists.

Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq told The Associated Press on Monday that the coalition "should be more serious" in its fight against the group.

Speaking on the sidelines of a conference in Dubai, al-Mutlaq said Iraq needs more advanced weapons to adequately combat the militants. He also said there should be more airstrikes against the Islamic State group.

Al-Mutlaq is one of the most senior figures from Iraq's Sunni minority in Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's Shiite-led government.

Woman: Mom wouldn't aid terrorist groups

ROCKFORD, Ill. — The daughter of an Illinois woman accused of supporting extremist groups claims her mother has been falsely accused.

Sella Ramic told WREX-TV that her mother, Jasminka Ramic, 42, of Rockford, doesn't stand with terrorism and would never send money to a terrorist organization.

Jasminka Ramic is among six Bosnian immigrants accused of sending money and military equipment to the Islamic State group and Nusra Front, an al-Qaida-affiliated rebel group. She's charged with conspiring to provide and providing material support to groups designated by the U.S. as foreign terrorist organizations.

The station reports the Ramics were in Germany and unaware of the indictment until a reporter contacted them. It's unclear if Jasminka Ramic has been arrested or has a lawyer.

Hostage's family still hopeful she is alive

PRESCOTT, Ariz. — The parents of a 26-year-old American woman held hostage for more than a year by Islamic State extremists were clinging to hope Sunday that their daughter is alive, having yet to receive information confirming otherwise.

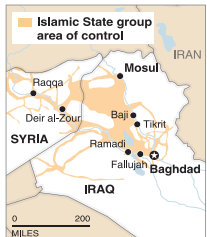
Family friend Todd Geiler said that the parents, Geoff and Heather Mueller, of Prescott, are in a very "fragile state."

"The strain of not knowing where their daughter is at and whether or not she is alive or not is something that is starting to get on their nerves," Geiler said. "But if we had to go on ahead and say in a word how they're doing, they're hopeful for her safe return."

The Islamic State group said Friday that Mueller died in a Jordanian airstrike in Syria. The government of Jordan denied the statement as propaganda. U.S. officials said they have not seen any evidence to corroborate the report.

Mueller is the only known remaining U.S. hostage held by the Islamic State group. She was taken hostage in August 2013 while leaving a hospital in Syria.

From The Associated Press



SOURCE: Institute for the Study of War

NATION

Same-sex unions begin in Alabama

By TIMOTHY M. PHELPS
AND KURTIS LEE
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday refused to block gay marriages from beginning in Alabama, though some county court officials are not heeding the ruling, citing an order from the state's chief justice telling them not to issue licenses.

In the capital of Montgomery and in Birmingham, probate judges began to issue same-sex marriage licenses Monday morning. Officials from both cities did not provide estimates for how many marriage licenses they expected to hand out on Monday.

In Bibb and Tuscaloosa counties, probate court officials said they would continue to refuse to issue same-sex marriage licenses. "Right now, we're not going to do it," said probate Judge Jerry Powell. "We have direct orders from the state Supreme Court here in Alabama, and I'm going to adhere to it."

Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore warned probate judges on Sunday not to issue same-sex marriage licenses. In the letter, Moore wrote, "Effective immediately, no Probate Judge of the State of Alabama nor any agent or employee of any Alabama Probate Judge shall issue or rec-

ognize a marriage license that is inconsistent with Article 1, Section 36.03, of the Alabama Constitution or 30-1-19, Ala. Code 1975," the state laws banning same-sex marriage. Moore wrote that issuing licenses to same-sex couples would be in "defiance of the laws and Constitution in Alabama."

A U.S. District Court ruling last month invalidated Alabama's ban on same-sex marriages. With the high court's ruling Monday, state officials had clearance to begin issuing same-sex marriage licenses, making Alabama the first Deep South state to do so.

The state probate judges association has urged officials to follow the federal court order, and it's still unclear how big of an effect Moore's order will have.

"We need more information from the state on what we need to do. More clarity is needed," said Lisa Whitehead, chief clerk of the probate court in Tuscaloosa.

Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas dissented from Monday's high-court decision, with Thomas writing an angry dissent. "Today's decision represents yet another example of this Court's increasingly cavalier attitude toward the States," he wrote.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to decide by June whether same-sex couples have a right to marriage nationwide.



BILL SWERS/AP

Corbit Larson clears snow in front of icicles hanging off his Centre Music store in Framingham, Mass., on Monday.

NE battered by 3rd storm in 2 weeks

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The third major winter storm in less than two weeks inflicted fresh snow — and misery — across parts of the northeastern U.S. on Monday.

Some areas of Massachusetts had about a foot of snow before dawn Monday, and the storm was expected to last all day. The Boston area was expected to receive up to 2 feet of snow through Tuesday, while Hartford, Conn., and Providence, R.I., could each get up to a foot.

The storm made for a slippery, tedious commute to start the workweek.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker called the situation from the stream of storms "pretty much unprecedented," and he ordered nonemergency state employees to stay at home.

Boston's Logan International Airport will be allowing only a limited number of flights to arrive and depart Monday, so travelers should check with their airlines, the governor said.

Massachusetts emergency management officials said snow-laden roofs collapsed Monday in three cities. No injuries were reported.

WBZ-TV reported that the set of "The Finest Hours" — a Disney film about a Coast Guard rescue

of crewmen aboard an oil tanker wrecked off Cape Cod during a 1952 blizzard — suffered a partial collapse at an old shipyard in the city of Quincy. The movie, starring Chris Pine and Casey Affleck, is scheduled to open next year.

Amtrak railway canceled portions of its passenger train service in upstate New York because of the storm.

Government officials Sunday announced that schools and municipal offices in many communities would be closed and that parking bans would be in effect. As accidents began to accumulate, drivers were warned to stay off the slick roads.

Boyfriend charged in Pa. death

The Associated Press

MILLERSVILLE, Pa. — The boyfriend of a student found dead in a Pennsylvania university dormitory room was covered in blood and performing CPR when campus police arrived, according to an arrest affidavit.

Gregorio Orrostieta, 19, told officers early Sunday he shoved Millersville University freshman Karlie Hall, 18, causing her to fall to the ground and hit her head on a chair, and then gave her a "back hand" to the face, causing her to become unresponsive, the affidavit said.

Orrostieta was arraigned Monday on an aggravated assault charge and is jailed in lieu of \$1.5 million bail. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Feb. 19.

Orrostieta, who did not attend



Orrostieta

the affidavit.

"I knew that the relationship wasn't that great," Hall's friend, Trisha Faust, 19, of Emmaus, said. "It was on again, off again."

Friends described Hall as a finance major who always appeared happy and often spent her free time on campus going to the gym or feeding ducks at a campus pond.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush stepped closer to a White House bid, saying Monday that he is ready to release thousands of emails and the first chapter of a related e-book intended to highlight his compassionate leadership style and conservative credentials.

Bush, the son and brother of former presidents, has yet to announce his political intentions, but he has been among the most aggressive Republican presidential prospects in recent weeks.

Although many months remain until the first votes are cast in the presidential race, Democrats are already trying to stop Bush from defining himself as a reformer who aims to close the gap between the rich and poor. They have drawn unflattering comparisons between him and 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney.

There is no overwhelming favorite for the Republican nomi-

nation. Romney's recent decision to not run in 2016 could be a boost for Bush and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who were competing for the support of the Republican



Bush

Party's establishment-minded voters and donors. The eventual Republican nominee will likely face Hillary Rodham Clinton, the clear leader for the

Democratic nomination should she decide to enter the race. During a conference call, Bush cited support from his family as he eyes the 2016 campaign.

"Thanks to the support that I have from my beloved wife and family, my life is totally focused on this," he said.

Bush said he would release the materials on Tuesday. While many

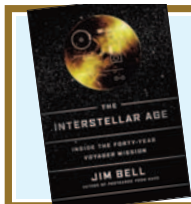
news outlets previously obtained the emails from Bush's time in office, the former two-term governor suggested his interaction with constituents and staff would help shape his message in a prospective presidential campaign.

"One of the things that came out of this was a sense there is a story to be told here," Bush said, describing "a style of leadership that tried to help people."

The Associated Press was provided dial-in details and listened to the call.

In what was a revealing look inside Bush's thinking, he called on his allies to show respect and demonstrate hopefulness among Hispanic voters and other groups that have shrunk as part of the Republican electorate.

"Because our message was maybe too harsh or our harsher voices are the ones that seem to have dominated, we've lost a little ground," he said during the 20-minute call. "But the fact that I'm bilingual, bicultural can't hurt."



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NATION

Obama, Merkel: West is united by Russia's acts

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel declared Monday that Russian aggression in Ukraine has only reinforced the unity of the U.S. and Europe, as they weighed the prospects of reviving an elusive peace plan to end the conflict.

Still, Obama has opened the prospect that if a new round of diplomacy this week fails, the U.S. could send Ukraine's beleaguered military defensive weaponry. The president said that while he has yet to make a decision on lethal aid, his team is considering "whether there are additional things we can do to help Ukraine bolster its defenses in the face of Russian aggression."

Merkel and other European leaders staunchly oppose arming Ukraine, in part out of fear of sparking a proxy war with Russia.

The U.S. and Europe have largely been in agreement on their response to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, raising the prospect that a public split over lethal aid is a tactic to push Russian Vladimir Putin to agree to a peace plan.

During a joint White House news conference with Obama, Merkel reaffirmed that she sees no military solution to the fighting in eastern Ukraine. However, she added that no matter what Obama decides, "the alliance between the United States and Europe will continue to stand, will continue to be solid."

Merkel and French President Francois Hollande met with Putin and Ukrainian leaders last week and announced a new summit meeting for Wednesday in Minsk. The United States was not at the negotiating table last week, nor will it participate in Wednesday's talks.

Merkel, who has perhaps the

most productive relationship with Putin of any Western leader, said reaching a diplomatic agreement was crucial to keeping the peace in Europe.

"I myself actually would not be able to live without having made this attempt," she said through a translator.

More than 5,300 people have been killed since fighting in eastern Ukraine began in April, according to a U.N. tally. The bloodshed has markedly increased over the past two weeks, sparking both the new diplomatic maneuvering and Obama's re-evaluation of sending Ukraine defensive military aid.

The president gave no indication of how quickly he would make a decision on possibly ramping up military assistance to Ukraine, nor did he indicate whether there was a specific development that might trigger that step. The U.S. has so far limited its military assistance to nonlethal equipment.

Angry over trade, labor leaders get union-friendly Obama pitch

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is using a union-friendly economic pitch to soothe anger among labor leaders over his push for new trade agreements with Asia and Europe.

The fight over trade is already steeling labor-allied Democrats in the House against giving Obama the kind of fast-track authority he wants to push trade deals through Congress. If Obama were to succeed, trade deals won with Republican support could depress union votes, with potential consequences for former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton if she decides to run for president in 2016.

The president has personally reached out to labor leaders, briefly delaying his departure for a domestic trip in January to huddle in the White House with AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and United Auto Workers President Dennis Williams. The topic was Obama's then-upcoming State of the Union address.

A week earlier, Obama had invited Mary Kay Henry, president of the Service Employees International Union, and Leo Gerard, of the United Steelworkers, to fly with him to Michigan aboard the presidential plane Air Force One.

Obama's relationship with labor unions has never been close and at times has been downright chilly. The fight over the new trade deals promised to be as bitter as President Bill Clinton's during debate over the North American Free Trade Agreement. But Obama

has sought to court unions with an economic message straight out of the labor policy book.

"We still need laws that strengthen, rather than weaken, unions and give American workers a voice," Obama said in his State of the Union speech to Congress in January.

For labor it was a welcome sentiment from a president whom many union leaders faulted for not pushing for greater bargaining rights early in his presidency when he had Democratic majorities in the House and the Senate. The Republicans now control both chambers.

Obama wants to keep the union anger to a quiet simmer by otherwise advancing an agenda that dovetails with labor's. The result is a complicated alliance that has never had a strong bond.

"He has addressed our raising-wages agenda," said Bill Samuel, the director of government affairs at the AFL-CIO. "He has been talking about middle-class economics, about jobs. He talked in

his State of the Union about making unions stronger, not weaker."

"If you look at the policies from minimum wage, paid sick days, overtime, paid family and medical leave — these all appeal to the working-class families we represent," he said. "Clearly the one area where we continue to have a very deep disagreement is over trade."

While the objections from labor to Obama's trade push have been loud and constant, the labor movement is not monolithic.

"Public employee unions tend to have more skin in the minimum wage game than in the trade game," said William Galston, a former domestic policy adviser to President Bill Clinton.

Still, passage of NAFTA over labor opposition in late 1993 has been blamed for a decrease in voter participation by union households in the 1994 election. Unions like the AFL-CIO punished Democrats by cutting back on their political funding.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIEVAIS/AP

President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel participate in a joint news conference at the White House on Monday. They reaffirmed the two nations' unity in the face of Russian aggression in Ukraine.

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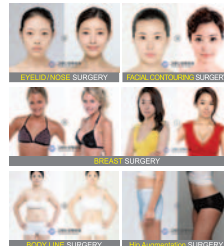
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WORLD

Awaiting talks, EU puts off fresh Russia sanctions

By LORNE COOK
AND RAF CASERT
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union decided Monday to hold off temporarily on slapping sanctions on more Russians and Ukrainian separatists and to await the outcome of possible peace talks later this week.

With the leaders of Germany, France, Russia and Ukraine due to hold negotiations in Minsk, Belarus, on Wednesday, the EU has delayed placing asset freezes and travel bans on 19 more individuals, including five Russians, for their actions in eastern Ukraine. It said the situation would be reviewed Monday.

"The principle of the sanctions is maintained but the application will depend on what happens on the ground," French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said during a break in talks with EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

Fabius said political advisers would meet in Minsk on Tuesday to "hopefully" set up talks for the following day between German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.

"There is plenty of work left to do. There are a series of questions to answer," he said, including where heavy weapons should be withdrawn to and how to secure Ukraine's borders.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier also cautioned that the Minsk meeting is not set in stone yet and diplomats were meeting Monday in Berlin to try to pave the way.

The EU foreign ministers are backing fresh diplomatic efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine, rejecting calls by some U.S. politicians to provide lethal defensive weapons to Kiev.

"We do not see this as progress. It would be easy for the Russians to immediately compensate for that," said Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders.

"The UK is not intending to supply lethal weaponry to Ukraine at this point," Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said.

The EU now has visa bans and asset freezes on 132 individuals and 28 entities for their actions in eastern Ukraine. Nine more entities — companies and separatist groups in eastern Ukraine not recognized by the West, including one from Russia — also could be added to the list.

Gunmen fire in French city on day of PM's visit

By JAMEY KEATEN
The Associated Press

PARIS — Gunmen exchanged fire in a Marseille housing project known as an open-air drug market on Monday, prompting police to close off the area in a search for the shooters the same day France's prime minister planned to visit the city.

No injuries were immediately reported in the shooting in the Castellane housing project, an area north of the city's old port that is rife with drug violence and gangs.

There were conflicting reports about whether officers had also been targeted by automatic gunfire. David Olivier Reverdy, a police union official, told RTL radio no officers were specifically targeted and no one was wounded.

But Samia Ghali, a senator from the region, told iTele that she spoke with the police director and was told that the gunmen were targeting police and also were firing at random.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls was due in Marseille, France's second-largest city, to talk about security and education. Reverdy said it was not



CLAUDE PARIS/AP

Elite police officers arrive outside the Castellane housing project of Marseille, southern France, on Monday.

clear whether there was a link between the shooting on what he described as a "drug corner" and Valls' visit.



JOEL KOUAM/AP

People take part in a march Saturday in Yaounde, Cameroon, to show their support for the Cameroon army in its fight against Boko Haram militants.

Boko Haram extremists attack Cameroon, Niger

By EDWIN KINDEKA MOSI
The Associated Press

YAOUNDE, Cameroon — Nigerian Islamic extremists Boko Haram pushed their conflict further into neighboring countries with attacks on Cameroon and Niger, abducting more than 30 people including those aboard a packed bus, residents said Monday.

Three Cameroonians towns were attacked, and in Niger the town of Diffa was attacked for the third time in recent days.

To battle Boko Haram, nearby countries have pledged to send troops to help Nigeria squash the militant group that killed more than 10,000 people last year. Nearly a year ago, Boko Haram abducted more than 200 Nigerian schoolgirls who remain missing.

In northern Cameroon, the fighters seized a bus with 20 people aboard in Koza late Sunday and then drove it back toward the Nigerian border, some 11 miles away, resident Boubba

Kaina told The Associated Press by telephone.

Early Monday, another Cameroon town, Kolofata, was attacked by extremists who looted food and livestock. The town had recently been retaken by Chadian troops who have been helping Cameroon fight Boko Haram.

In Niger, Diffa was attacked overnight, the third attack since Friday on the town which has tens of thousands of refugees who have fled Boko Haram's attacks elsewhere. Calm had returned by Monday morning, but residents are rattled.

"Gunfire and heavy explosions were heard throughout the night until the early hours of the morning," said Adam Boukar, who runs a radio station in Diffa.

Diffa first came under assault Friday, as Boko Haram militants also besieged the town of Bossa. Then, on Saturday night, the fighters renewed their assault on Diffa with fighting that lasted until 5 a.m.

To mobilize a regional response

to Boko Haram, officials from neighboring countries and the African Union met in Cameroon's capital, Yaounde, on Saturday and pledged to create a force of as many as 8,750 troops with soldiers from Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Benin. Chad is to command the force from its capital, N'Djamena. Officials said the force could be deployed as early as next month, though funding issues could delay its launch.

Boko Haram scoffed at the regional effort.

"You are sending 7,000 of your soldiers. Why don't you send 7 million?" Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau said in a video posted on YouTube "The 7,000 that killed and we can kill them step by step ... your soldiers are infidels and God's soldiers are victorious."

Shekau also told the people of Chad and Cameroon to renounce democracy to be true Muslims. He ridiculed the force planned by "you tyrants of Africa" and told Chadian President Idriss Deby that he will "burn in hellfire."

Report reveals HSBC clients' tax dodging

By DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

LONDON — HSBC's Swiss private bank hid millions of dollars for drug traffickers, arms dealers and celebrities as it helped wealthy people around the world dodge taxes, according to a report based on leaked documents that lifts the veil on the country's banking secrecy laws.

The report from the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and several news organizations comes as governments seek to crack down on tax evasion to bolster treasuries depleted by the financial crisis and

to staunch criticism that the rich aren't paying their fair share.

The leaked documents cover the period up to 2007 and relate to accounts worth \$100 billion held by more than 100,000 people and legal entities from 200 countries.

Some details of such operations were disclosed previously, when HSBC was fined in 2012 by the U.S. for allowing criminals to use its branches for money laundering. Monday's report discloses a more detailed cache of data and information.

Academics estimate that \$7.6 trillion is held in overseas tax havens, depriving governments of

\$200 billion per year in tax revenue, according to the ICIJ report.

The French government received the files from a whistle-blower in 2010 and passed them on to tax authorities around the world, including the U.S., Britain and Germany.

In Britain, where HSBC is based, the report sparked criticism that tax authorities hadn't done more to penalize tax evaders. The tax agency clacked back 135 million pounds (\$236 million) from some of the 3,600 Britons identified as using the Geneva branch of HSBC, but only one has been prosecuted. France, by contrast, launched 103 actions.

WORLD

Slim win a concern for leader of Australia

By JASON SCOTT
Bloomberg News

CANBERRA, Australia — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott thwarted a leadership challenge but failed to end speculation his position is under threat after almost 40 percent of his Liberal Party colleagues voted against him.

Liberal lawmakers voted 61-39 against a motion that would have declared his job vacant and allowed candidates to run against him. Internal support for the prime minister has dwindled 17 months after he won office amid the government's slumping poll ratings and concern about his leadership style.

"Apart from keeping his job, this is probably the worst possible result for the prime minister," said Hayden Manning, a politics professor at Flinders University in Adelaide. "A very solid block has just voted against his leadership. It seems a matter of when, not if, he leaves."

While the Cabinet publicly rallied behind the prime minister, Monday's vote has weakened Abbott, 57, and increased pressure on him to reset his policy agenda. An opinion poll released Monday showed his government trailing the Labor party by 14 points, with Abbott the most unpopular Liberal-National coalition prime minister on record.

Backbenchers who voted for the motion, including Luke Simpkins, who initiated it, said Abbott now needs to turn around the government's performance. With the federal budget due in three months, Abbott must seek to quell public anger sparked by last year's spending cuts, while repairing a deficit forecast to hit \$31.3 billion this financial year.

Abbott's critics are unlikely to mount another challenge before the March 28 state election in New South Wales, where his coalition allies are in power, or the May 12 budget, according to Paul Williams, a political analyst at Brisbane's Griffith University.

"This has bought the prime minister some time, but not much," said Williams, forecasting another challenge may occur as soon as mid-year. "Unless there's a turnaround in the polls, this will come up again."

Abbott called for party unity. "This matter is behind us," he said in a televised statement after the vote. "The focus now is once more on jobs, families, a stronger economy and a secure nation."

The strength of the opposition to Abbott in the vote, in the absence of a publicly declared challenger, further undermines his authority, Manning said.

"It's hard to see where Abbott can improve his lot from here," he said. "It was basically a vote in the confidence of his prime ministership, and there's obviously no real confidence in it."

Greek leader dug in on bailout plan

By DEREK GATOPoulos
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Investors hammered Greece's markets Monday after the country's new government renewed a pledge to seek bailout debt forgiveness and dubbed the rescue package a "toxic fantasy" — comments that presage a clash with European lenders at high-stakes meetings this week.

Amid wider European losses, Greek shares were down 6 percent in early trading, continuing a negative run. And borrowing rates were back up, a sign investors are more worried about a sovereign default. The yield on the country's three-year bonds spiked above 18 percent.

Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis dismissed the \$270 billion bailout packages crafted by Greece's lenders as a "toxic fantasy" that had always been doomed to fail.

"The time has come to say what officials admit when the microphones are turned off and say out in the open. ... At some point someone has to say 'No' and that role has fallen to us, little Greece," he told parliament.

Greece's left-wing Syriza party won the Jan. 25 election on a pledge of bringing relief to Greeks who have suffered through six years of recession and a dramatic drop in living standards. But since the start of the year, Greece has suffered a ratings downgrade and a decision by the European Central Bank not to accept its bonds as collateral.



PETROS GIANNAKOPOULOS/AP

A woman walks next to a washing line hung on shutters of an abandoned property in central Athens on Monday. Greece is embroiled in a dispute over debt restructuring as the country grapples with an ongoing recession that has dramatically affected living standards.

Markets were hit after Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras in his inaugural speech in parliament late Sunday described his election pledge to seek debt restructuring as "irrevocable."

"Greece's new Prime Minister Tsipras gave a few hints that the reality shock after a week of European meetings has started to reach Athens," said Christian Schulz, an economist with Beren-

berg Bank in London. "But the policy program presented still reads more like a unilateral tearing up of the conditions under which Athens received ... aid."

Tsipras' new government — which ousted the less-confrontational conservatives — argues that Greece's debt will be increasingly unsustainable unless it receives generous repayment relief that would allow its bat-

tered economy to recover.

"It appears the new government does not yet have a road map for the economy," said conservative lawmaker Christos Staikouras. "That has created a great deal of turbulence."

Parliament is scheduled to give Tsipras' coalition a vote of confidence Tuesday, hours before an emergency meeting of eurozone finance ministers in Brussels.

China executes 5 people convicted in Mafia case

BEIJING — Liu Han, the former chairman of Sichuan Hanlong Group, was executed Monday after his conviction for running a billion-dollar mafia empire involved in murder and extortion, a court in eastern Hubei province said.

Liu Han's younger brother, Liu Wei, was also executed along with three others involved in the case after the condemned prisoners met with their families, Xianning Intermediate People's Court said on its official Weibo social media account.

The trial of Liu was one of the most high-profile prosecutions in President Xi Jinping's two-year anti-graft campaign designed to bolster his power and the reputation of the ruling Communist Party. Liu was one of the richest 500 people in China, with a fortune of \$650 million, according to a wealth ranking published in September by the Shanghai-based Hurun Report.

He has also been tied in media reports to Zhou Bin, the son of China's disgraced former security chief, Zhou Yongkang. Liu paid Zhou Bin \$1.92 million for a tourism company, more than double its worth, to maintain a relationship with him, the South China Morning Post reported, citing unidentified people.

From Bloomberg News

STARS AND STRIPES JOB OPENINGS
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Announcement number: EUNAFHU151305155

Job Title: Editor (Multimedia Consultant), NF-04.

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Stars and Stripes is seeking a Multimedia Consultant (MMC) responsible for selling all products and services using the customer-focused consultative selling process, a relationship-based sales technique which requires the MMC to analyze the customer's needs, develop individualized strategies, and provide client-needs based account management to maximize client/agency results and revenue growth. The MMC will effectively provide client program solutions by mixing appropriate amounts of newspaper print, web and other digital applications, special magazines, inserts, commercial print, circulation, events and other promotions that fit within the client's budget to achieve their advertising/marketing goals and objectives. The MMC manages an assigned group of current accounts and is responsible for building relationships and growing revenue from that group. The MMC also develops new accounts and additional sales. The MMC identifies prospects, moves them through the sales process from proposal to purchase order, monitors production, tracks results and maintains the relationship through routine follow-up contacts. The MMC will perform these activities to achieve sales targets. The MMC will be a positive and contributing member of a high achieving professional sales team.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Hearing could speed Revel casino sale

By WAYNE PARRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — The Florida developer buying Atlantic City's former Revel Casino Hotel could find out by the end of the day Monday how much longer he'll have to wait for it.

Glenn Straub agreed late Sunday night to extend the deadline for his \$95.4 million purchase to be completed. The sale was supposed to close on Monday.

Instead, U.S. District Court Judge Jerome Simandle will hold a hearing at 3 p.m. to hear from former tenants at the Revel, including the popular HQ nightclub and celebrity restaurants, as well as the building's sole utility service provider. The tenants say their \$16 million investment should be considered before the court lets Straub buy Revel free and clear of their leases. The power plant is seeking assurances its unpaid bills and debt from its construction will be paid.



WAYNE PARRY/AP

The former Revel Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J., faced having its power and water service cut off over unpaid bills.

Though much of the urgency of Monday's hearing has been avoided by Straub's willingness to wait, it still has the potential to resolve the most contentious

issues standing in the way of the Revel's sale. ACR Energy Partners is threatening to cut off electricity, heat, air conditioning and water

to the building if its debts are not paid. They intended to pull the plug last Thursday, but agreed to keep the power flowing at least until Wednesday, when a bankruptcy court judge will consider the issue.

The Revel and ACR say they are working toward a resolution that could eliminate the need for Wednesday's hearing.

Straub is the lone remaining bidder from a bankruptcy court auction of the Revel last fall. He was the runner-up, but became the chosen bidder after the winner, Canadian firm Brookfield Asset Management, scrapped its \$110 million deal to buy the casino, citing a dispute over the power plant debt.

In obtaining preliminary approval last week to own a casino in New Jersey, the Hard Rock chain said it has been interested in the Revel and has had talks with Straub about some level of involvement in it. CEO James Allen would not go into detail about what was discussed with Straub.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 10)	\$1.1604
Dollar buys (Feb. 10)	80.8618
British pound (Feb. 10)	\$1.56
Japanese yen (Feb. 10)	116.00
South Korean won (Feb. 10)	1,068.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.5231/0.6566
Canada (dollar)	1.2434
China (Yuan)	6.2457
Denmark (Krone)	6.5660
Egypt (Pound)	7.5325
Euro	\$1.1337/0.8820
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7532
Hungary (Forint)	272.03
Israel (Shekel)	3.4749
Japan (Yen)	118.74
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2954
Norway (Krone)	7.5865
Philippines (Peso)	44.30
Poland (Zloty)	3.7739
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7536
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3526
South Korea (Won)	1,097.94
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9226
Thailand (Baht)	32.63
Turkey (New Lira)	2.4860

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., rates for currencies not issued in the U.S.), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.00
Federal funds market rate	0.12
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	2.53

WEATHER OUTLOOK

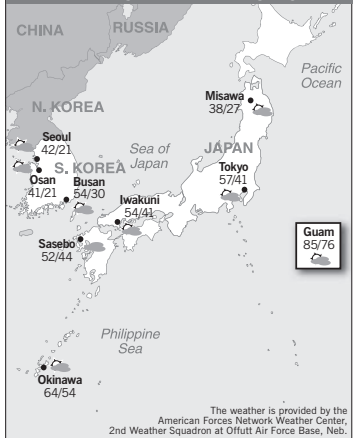
TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Tuesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	79	49	Cldy	Chatanooga	50	33	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	26	19	Pcldy	Louisville	42	30	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	29	19	Cldy	Cheney	52	27	Cldy	Fresno	59	44	Cldy	Lubbock	77	38	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	41	21	Cldy	Chicago	31	23	Cldy	Goodland	63	34	Pcldy	Macon	60	37	Cldy
Albuquerque	69	37	Cldy	Cincinnati	36	25	Pcldy	Grand Junction	54	27	Cldy	Madison	28	26	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	69	37	Cldy	Cleveland	26	17	Cldy	Grand Rapids	26	17	Pcldy	Medford	53	35	Pcldy
Anchorage	36	17	Cldy	Colorado Springs	60	32	Cldy	Great Falls	37	22	Cldy	Memphis	52	34	Pcldy
Asheville	50	30	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	58	34	Pcldy	Green Bay	27	23	Cldy	Miami Beach	73	54	Pcldy
Atlanta	56	36	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	59	37	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	45	29	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	79	43	Cldy
Atlantic City	40	23	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	31	25	Cldy	Hartford	39	29	Cldy	Milwaukee	28	26	Cldy
Austin	47	31	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	27	2	Cldy	Hartford Spring	31	12	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	28	21	Cldy
Baltimore	39	26	Cldy	Corpus Christi	76	54	Cldy	Helena	50	28	Cldy	Missoula	44	28	Cldy
Baton Rouge	62	38	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	72	50	Cldy	Honolulu	79	65	Rain	Montgomery	58	35	Cldy
Bilings	48	23	Cldy	Dayton	31	25	Pcldy	Houston	72	47	Cldy	Nashville	47	31	Pcldy
Birmingham	53	32	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	62	45	Cldy	Huntsville	49	31	Pcldy	New Orleans	58	43	Cldy
Bismarck	35	8	Cldy	Denver	58	30	Cldy	Indianapolis	36	26	Pcldy	New York City	33	22	Cldy
Boston	53	34	Cldy	Des Moines	39	29	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	56	34	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	41	32	Rain
Boulder	29	17	Cldy	Detroit	25	16	Pcldy	Jacksonville	60	40	Pcldy	North Platte	63	24	Pcldy
Bridgport	47	16	Cldy	El Paso	74	45	Cldy	Janeau	32	30	Cldy	Omaha	44	28	Cldy
Brownsville	79	57	Cldy	Elkins	37	24	Cldy	Kansas City	51	34	Pcldy	Orlando	66	46	Pcldy
Buffalo	25	12	Cldy	Erie	23	12	Cldy	Knoxville	45	30	Pcldy	Paduach	44	29	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	12	-13	Cldy	Eugene	53	38	Pcldy	Lake Charles	66	43	Cldy	Pendleton	55	38	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	51	28	Cldy	Evansville	41	29	Pcldy	Lansing	72	50	Cldy	Perth	36	29	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	57	35	Cldy	Fargo	31	7	Snow	Las Vegas	54	36	Cldy	Philadelphia	40	26	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	40	27	Cldy	Flagstaff	59	30	Cldy	Lincoln	51	29	Cldy	Phoenix	83	54	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	56	34	Cldy	Flint	25	16	Pcldy	Little Rock	54	36	Cldy	Pittsburgh	31	21	Cldy
				Fort Smith	64	42	Cldy	Los Angeles	75	53	Cldy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Sun, 90, Terrell County, Texas
Lo: Sun, -19, Houston, Texas

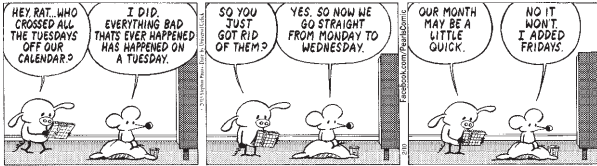
Frazz



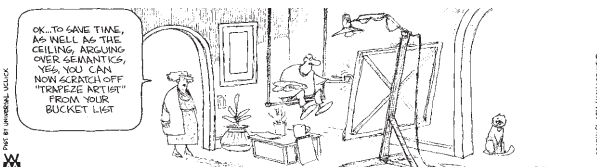
Dilbert



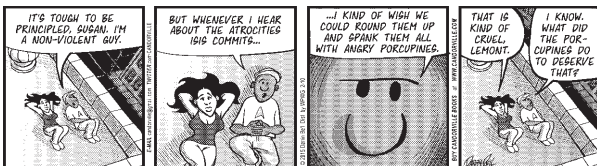
Pearls Before Swine



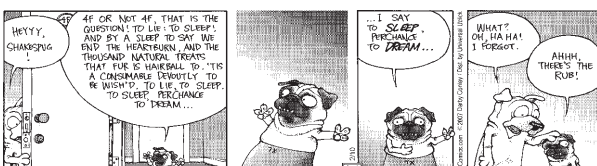
Non Sequitur



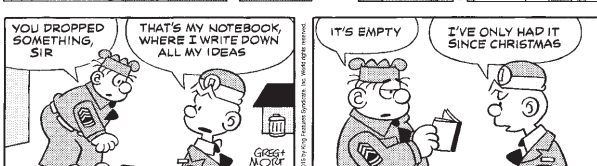
Candorville



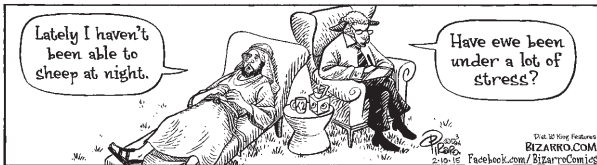
Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
				18				19	20			
21	22	23						24				
25					26	27				28	29	
30					31					32		
33					34					35		
				36						37		
38	39						40	41				
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

ACROSS

- 1 Tamer's prop
- 5 Egg
- 9 Got a look at
- 12 Wife of Zeus
- 13 Sit for a snapshot
- 14 Alias abbr.
- 15 Sumatran simian
- 17 60 sec.
- 18 Medicinal measure
- 19 Nasality
- 21 Chocolate source
- 24 Burn somewhat
- 25 Aahs' mates
- 26 Pensive
- 30 "SNL" alumna
- 31 Gasteyer
- 31 "Is that your — answer?"
- 32 Driver's prop
- 33 Train station, e.g.
- 35 "Nuts!"
- 36 Pork fat
- 37 Hiawatha's craft
- 38 Sleuth Sam
- 40 Pale
- 42 Feedbag tidbit
- 43 1979 Woody Allen movie
- 48 — Khan
- 49 Zits
- 50 35-Down's state
- 51 Understanding
- 52 Gotta have
- 53 Dweeb

DOWN

- 1 Personal question?
- 2 That girl
- 3 Glass of "This American Life"
- 4 Bamboo munchers
- 5 Piece of work
- 6 November responsibility
- 7 Mex. neighbor
- 8 VapoRub ingredient
- 9 Good — (helper)
- 10 Related (to)
- 11 Vera of fashion
- 16 Moo — gal pan
- 20 Bankroll
- 21 Layer
- 22 Highly rated
- 23 Fraud
- 24 Barbecue fuel
- 26 Tie
- 27 Genetic matter
- 28 Infamous string musician
- 29 Simmons of KISS
- 31 Relief pitcher
- 34 Crazed
- 35 Wright Brothers' home
- 37 Dance syllable?
- 38 Drench
- 39 Senate staffer
- 40 Green Gables girl
- 41 Lean-to
- 44 Expert
- 45 Definite article
- 46 Melody
- 47 Affirmative action?

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	O	P	A		C	H	M		Z	I	N	G
O	R	A	T	O	R	I	O		E	D	E	N
G	O	L	D		D	U	S	T		P	E	R
				A	I	D		J	I	H	A	D
S	P	A	W	N		B	U	O	Y			
E	A	R	N		D	U	S	T		R	A	G
T	I	E		S	E	R	T	A		W	A	G
	R	A	G		T	I	M	E		C	O	L
			R	A	G		A		S	A	L	A
S	L	O	U	G		S	E	N				
C	U	R	B		T	I	M	E		C	A	R
A	R	A	B			O	D			M	E	T
R	E	L	Y		N	O	G			L	E	V

2-10

CRYPTOQUIP

Y VNOW VRIV HGOONS RG'W

DUNLILOQ CGGW VN IDDOQ

ICNVRGU OIQGU NH DNOYBR,

LXV Y SIB UG-LXHHGW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OLD DRAMA SERIES CENTERING AROUND TWO HUMMINGBIRDS WHOSE BILLS LOOKED IDENTICAL: "TWIN BEAKS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals E

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Baby gorilla born at Jacksonville Zoo

FL JACKSONVILLE — The first baby gorilla has been born at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

The baby was born Friday to mother Bulera and father Lash, but the newborn's gender isn't known yet.

The Florida Times-Union reported Bulera is about 15 years old and came from the Lincoln Park Zoo. Lash was born on Christmas Day in 1976 at the Cincinnati Zoo.

Bars install breath analysis machines

DE WILMINGTON — Two bars in New Castle County recently installed breath analysis vending machines to help patrons make smart decisions about whether it's safe to drive home.

The Wilmington News-Journal reported Tailgates Sports Bar and Grill in Newark recently installed the Boozelator 5000, which for \$1 dispenses a sanitary straw that patrons can use to blow into a device that will register his or her blood alcohol content.

Roughly 100 people have used the Boozelator at Tailgates.

Boozelator machines have also been installed at Bank Shots bar in Newark and Walt's Tavern in Elkton, Md. Three other bars in Delaware have similar machines.

Professors, students to host myth-busting event

SD RAPID CITY — Professors and students from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology will host an event in which they'll attempt to bust science myths.

The school's physics, chemistry and civil engineering departments will present myths and try to prove or disprove them during a presentation scheduled for Feb. 17. The free event is open to the public and is part of the school's 2015 Engineers Week.

As part of the weeklong celebration, dozens of middle and high schools students are expected to converge on the Rapid City campus for tours and demonstrations by academic departments, a visit to the Museum of Geology and a NASA-related presentation.

Divers aim to learn if wreckage is Griffin

MI LANSING — A state official says divers will explore an apparent shipwreck in Lake Michigan discovered by two treasure hunters who say it may be the long-lost Griffin, which disappeared more than three centuries ago.

Kevin Dykstra and Frederick Monroe found a vessel hull on the lake bottom in 2011 while searching for gold bullion that some believe was lost in the lake during the Civil War.

They met last week with state officials in Lansing.

State maritime archaeologist Wayne Lusardi said he doesn't think the men found the wreck-

THE CENSUS

21

The age a Rhode Island lawmaker wants to set as the new minimum for legal tobacco purchases in the state. State Rep. Teresa Tanzi has introduced a bill to raise the state's smoking age from 18 to make it harder for younger people to get cigarettes. Although some municipalities have raised the smoking age to 21, no state has done so. Four states set their minimum age for tobacco purchases at age 19.



BOB SELF, THE (JACKSONVILLE) FLORIDA TIMES-UNION/AP

Vaulting at the mall

Spectators on the stairway to the second floor of the Avenues Mall in Jacksonville, Fla., watch as a pole vault competitor tries to clear the bar during a competition Saturday. The Jacksonville Athletic Club and the Avenues Mall hosted an indoor pole vault competition set up in the center court of the mall.

age of the Griffin, which was commanded by the French explorer La Salle. It was last seen in 1679 near present-day Green Bay, Wis.

Monroe said even if it's not the Griffin, it's still a historic find.

Twain plaque taken from gravesite recovered

NY ELMIRA — Police say a bronze plaque stolen from Mark Twain's gravesite in upstate New York has been recovered in good condition.

In a statement to media, the Elmira Police Department said the 12-by-12-inch likeness of the American writer was recovered

Saturday. The statement said details on how it was recovered and whether there will be any arrests would not be available until Monday.

The superintendent of Woodlawn Cemetery in Elmira said the plaque likely was stolen between Christmas and New Year's Day. It was one of two on a 12-foot-tall granite monument commissioned by Twain's daughter, Clara. The other plaque, of Clara's husband, was untouched.

Twain, born Samuel Langhorne Clemens, grew up in Hannibal, Mo. He summered in Elmira and is buried there in the family plot of his wife, Olivia Langdon.

Man crashes truck into Coast Guard station

MI GRAND HAVEN — A man drove a truck into a western Michigan Coast Guard station as officials were evacuating personnel following a bomb threat.

The Coast Guard said Ottawa County dispatchers received a phone call about 6 a.m. Sunday from a man claiming he had a bomb in his truck and was going to blow up the station in Grand Haven, about 30 miles northwest of Grand Rapids.

A truck crashed through the facility's gate and into the station building as staff members were

being evacuated. No injuries were reported.

The driver was arrested by station personnel and Grand Haven police.

Man going on trial in Disney park scam

TX SHERMAN — A member of a Dallas-area real estate family is set to go on trial after being accused of faking a story about a Walt Disney theme park and resort coming to North Texas to trick people into buying land while pocketing sales commissions.

The Dallas Morning News reports that the federal fraud trial for Thomas W. Lucas Jr., 40, was set to begin Monday in Sherman, north of Dallas.

Lucas is charged with seven counts of wire fraud and one count of making false statements to the FBI scam.

Investigators said they overpaid for land they were told was on the fringes of the future theme park.

Mayor clarifies bathroom proposal

NM SANTA FE — Santa Fe Mayor Javier Gonzalez says his proposal to have gender-neutral bathrooms does not mean men and women would have to share a bathroom.

Gonzalez said Saturday that several misconceptions have arisen since he announced the resolution during an address last week.

In his remarks, Gonzalez said he would introduce a resolution requiring that every single-stall bathroom in Santa Fe be gender-neutral. The mayor said the ordinance will not affect people's privacy or multi-stall bathrooms across the city.

Gonzales, who is openly gay, said he is fulfilling a promise he made after hearing from the city's transgender community.

He is working with the City Attorney's Office on the wording of the resolution. He said a vote could happen in spring or summer.

Bombs, grenades are found in parking lot

FL JACKSONVILLE — A street sweeper thought he was picking up a bag of trash but found bombs, grenades, mortars and M-18s inside instead.

Jacksonville sheriff's officials, a bomb squad robot and K-9 dogs arrived at a busy Jacksonville shopping center early Saturday morning. Bullets also were found on the ground next to the bag of military-grade contents.

The Florida Times-Union reported stores and restaurants in the River City Marketplace were blocked while the bomb squad sifted through the contents.

About four hours later, the contents were rendered safe and were removed for proper disposal.

From wire reports

SHIFTING GEARS



Cynthia Jones, Ford Rouge Factory Tour general manager, demonstrates an interactive touch screen at the new Ford Rouge Factory Tour in Detroit on Jan. 27. The tour offers a new theater experience that shows what it takes to build an F-150.

MANDI WRIGHT, DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS

Be dazzled at new Ford Rouge Factory Tour

By ALISA PRIDDLE
Detroit Free Press

DEARBORN, Mich. — The Ford Rouge Factory Tour has completed a \$4.7 million upgrade to better tell the story of the new Ford F-150 pickup.

Think lasers, 3-D projections, interactive displays and winking robots.

The Rouge tour, part of the Henry Ford museum, offers the public a look at a working auto assembly plant. The original tour opened 10 years ago and, with funding from the Ford Motor Co., has reinvented itself alongside the F-150 pickup that visitors can watch being built.

The tour also includes a historic display of key antique vehicles and two theaters with films and displays.

For the 2015 model year, Ford abandoned decades of steel-bodied pickups to make a new F-150 with an aluminum body to shed weight for a more fuel-efficient and capable truck.

When the new F-150 was introduced at the 2014 North American International Auto Show, staff at the museum realized their tour and displays were about to become outdated.

While Ford had years to plan the changes to its truck, the work was kept secret until the unveiling at the Detroit auto show in January 2014. That meant tour staff didn't start planning their overhaul until February 2014. The display area was closed for

renovations starting Aug. 25.

"A project like this usually takes up to two years for a museum to do," said Cynthia Jones, general manager of the Ford Rouge Factory Tour.

The project was granted no such luxury. It reopened Nov. 22 and by January was hosting international media in town for the 2015 auto show.

There is a new theater, displays, signs, Wi-Fi and physical updates to the building needed after 10 years and 1.1 million visitors.

"This is beyond world class," said Jones who has been with the Henry Ford for 15 years. She helped design the original tour and funneled 10 years of guest feedback into the new experience.

A new 2015 F-150 is on display, replacing the 2003 model that was put in place when the original Rouge tour opened to the public May 3, 2004.

The original film is still shown in the Legacy Theater, but the 12-minute history has a new ending narrated by Bill Ford, great-grandson of Henry Ford and executive chairman of the automaker bearing his name.

The second theater has been completely redone. It was stripped to the studs and the floor torn out. The new Manufacturing Innovation theater has new floors, seven large screens and 100 seats instead of 75.

"We analyzed what schools need and what number of seats works best for dinner events,"

Jones said.

And the refurbished theater has a new star. The 9½-minute film tells the story of the design, engineering and assembly of the 2015 model in a multimedia display that incorporates LED lights, lasers, 3-D images, vibrating seats, blasts of cooler air, dramatic music and two full-size production robots to re-create the factory experience.

Unchanged is the display of historic vehicles that have been made at the Rouge over almost 100 years.

"It's all about a moment of innovation for the company," Jones said. "We debated changing it but felt it was important to keep it."

The vehicles include the 1931 Model A that sold for \$630; 1932 Ford V8 Victoria; 1949 Ford Coupe; 1956 Ford Thunderbird; and 1965 Mustang convertible. From an observation deck, the vegetation of the living roof of the Rouge complex can be seen.

The area is now available for tours, parties and corporate events. Ford held its December board of directors meeting there and the UAW had an anniversary event there last year.

Three years ago, the handshake ceremony that kicks off formal national contract negotiations between Ford and the UAW was at the tour. That contract expires in September. The two sides have not booked the next handshake yet, Jones said.



Fun facts

- The Ford Rouge Factory Tour is part of the Henry Ford museum complex in Dearborn, Mich.
- The tour has been open to the public for 10 years.
- There have been 1.1 million visitors.
- It takes about two hours for a comfortable tour, but there are visitors who spend the better part of a day reading all the historical information.

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FACES

‘SpongeBob’ takes down ‘Sniper’ at the box office

The Associated Press

“The SpongeBob” Movie: Sponge Out of Water” unseated Clint Eastwood’s runaway hit “American Sniper” at the weekend box office, while two high-priced fantasies flopped.

Paramount Pictures’ “SpongeBob Movie” earned \$56 million in North America, a huge debut for the animated Nickelodeon big-screen transfer, according to estimates Sunday. That pushed “American Sniper” off the top spot after a three-week reign. The Navy SEAL drama took in \$24.2 million in its fourth week of wide release.

The Wachowskis’ lavish science-fiction adventure “Jupiter Ascending” opened with \$19 million, a meager amount for a \$175 million production. Warner Bros. delayed the release of the movie, starring Channing Tatum and Mila Kunis, from last summer.

Universal’s “Seventh Son,” a supernatural thriller set in medieval times, debuted with a scant \$7.1 million. The film, produced by Legendary Pictures and starring Jeff Bridges, cost nearly \$100 million to make.

Dylan receives pre-Grammys honor

Musical icons such as Neil Young, Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen paid tribute to Bob Dylan, who was named MusiCares Person of the Year by the Recording Academy on Friday night in Los Angeles. After accepting his award from former President Jimmy Carter, the singer-songwriter spoke for 40 minutes, scrolling through page after page of his written speech.

“I’m glad for my songs to be honored like this. But, you know, they didn’t get here themselves. It’s been a long road and it’s taken a lot of doing,” he said.

Dylan’s speech ranged from him reciting his own lyrics to thanking Peter, Paul and Mary for covering “Blowin’ in the Wind” and making the song a pop hit. He also addressed his critics.

“Critics have been giving me a hard time since day one. Critics say I can’t sing, I croak, sound like frog. Why don’t critics say the same thing about Tom Waits?” as the audience laughed. “Critics say my voice is shot. That I have no voice. Why don’t they say those things about Leonard Cohen? Why do I get special treatment?”

Past honorees include Bonito, Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, Billy Joel and Quincy Jones.

‘Boyhood,’ ‘Birdman’ still battling for awards

The two-movie best picture race continued toward Oscar night, as slow-cooked coming-of-age tale “Boyhood” and the ambitious, washed-up-actor-seeks-credibility story “Birdman” each won a top honor over the weekend.

On Sunday, “Boyhood” took the best film trophy at the British Academy Film Awards in London.

Richard Linklater, who spent 12 years making “Boyhood,” was chosen as best director, and Patricia Arquette won the supporting-actress trophy as a struggling mother in the film.

Arquette has been a consistent winner during the last leap to the Oscars, as have the other BAFTA winners. Eddie Redmayne won the best-actor prize for his performance as physicist Stephen Hawking in “The Theory of Everything.” Julianne Moore was named best actress for portraying a woman with Alzheimer’s in “Still Alice,” and J.K. Simmons won supporting actor for the jazz-drumming drama “Whiplash.”

Wes Anderson’s candy-colored comedy “The Grand Budapest Hotel” won the biggest haul of prizes, with five.

Anderson won the original screenplay trophy for “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” which also took prizes for production design, costumes, hair and makeup and Alexandre Desplat’s score.

On Saturday, the long takes of Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu’s “Birdman” won out over the long production of Linklater’s “Boyhood” at the Directors Guild Awards.

New accuser emerges as Cosby cancels in Boston

A former fashion model and actress who appeared on an episode of “The Cosby Show” in 1988 is the latest of several women to accuse Bill Cosby of making unwanted sexual advances toward them.

Helen Gumpel, formerly known as Helen Selby, said Sunday that Cosby made sexual advances and lewd gestures toward her while she was on the set of the show.

Cosby’s lawyer Marty Singer did not immediately respond to an email message seeking comment. The 77-year-old entertainer faces sexual assault accusations from at least 15 women. He denies the allegations and has never been charged with a crime.

Gumpel, who lives in Connecticut with her husband, made the allegations at a news conference she held at a downtown Boston hotel hours after Cosby canceled back-to-back comedy shows scheduled that evening at the nearby Wilbur Theater. Demonstrators had threatened to protest outside the theater.

Cosby, who has a home in western Massachusetts, said in a statement that he canceled the shows because of winter weather forecasts. The New England forecast called for a winter storm with nearly 2 feet of snow in the Boston area through Tuesday.

Other news

■ Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Joe B. Mauldin, a bass player for Buddy Holly and The Crickets, has died at the age of 74 after a battle with cancer. The Tennessee reports that Mauldin died Saturday morning in Nashville, his adopted hometown of more than 30 years.

Heartbreak

‘Stay With Me’ sensation Smith takes home

BY MESFIN FEKADU

The Associated Press

Sam Smith was the king of the Grammys, taking home three of the top four awards — including song and record of the year for “Stay With Me” — and best new artist, while Beck won album of the year.

Smith, along with Beyonce, Pharrell and Ed Sheeran, lost album of the year to Beck’s “Morning Phase,” which also won best rock album Sunday night at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

“I want to thank the man who this record is about ... Thank you so much for breaking my heart because I have four Grammys,” said Smith, who also won best pop vocal album for “In the Lonely Hour.”

Kanye West, who famously interrupted Taylor Swift when she beat Beyonce at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards, almost walked onstage when Prince announced Beck’s name. Some in the audience seemed shocked, from Pharrell to Questlove.

Beck’s album debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard 200 albums chart and sold about 300,000 units.

Pharrell, Beyonce and Rosanne Cash walked away with three awards each. Pharrell won best pop solo performance for a live version of “Happy,” released in 2013. He also won best music video for the song

and best urban contemporary album for “G.I.R.L.,” beating Beyonce.

“I am going to moonwalk my way off the stage right now,” said Pharrell, wearing a blazer and shorts.

Pharrell’s performance of “Happy” was dramatic with background dancers in black, musicians in yellow and a choir in white.

When the chorus was supposed to come in, Lang Lang played the piano skillfully. Hans Zimmer also played the guitar.

“Thank you, God,” Pharrell, in a bell-boy hat, said at the end of the performance.

Rihanna gave an impressive vocal performance of “FourFiveSeconds” with Paul McCartney to her right and West to her left. Her hair was slicked back, and she rocked a black suit like her co-stars.

Katy Perry, in all white, sang the ballad “By Your Grace of God” after a woman who had been abused talked about getting help and moving on with her life. A video of President Barack Obama appeared before she spoke, and he encouraged artists to help out.

“It’s on us, all of us, to create a culture where violence isn’t tolerated,” he said.

Another serious moment came with Prince, who earned a standing ovation when he walked onstage to introduce album of the year.

“Albums — you remember those?



JOHN SHEARER, INVISION/AP

Beck accepts the Grammy for best rock album for “Morning Phase.”

Pharrell performs his megahit “Happy” on Sunday night.

A live version of the song netted him one of this three Grammys, for best pop solo performance.

JOHN SHEARER, INVISION/AP



Sam Smith won best new artist Grammy Award at the Staples Center.

k & hardware

Home 4 Grammys; Beck wins album of the year



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

...t, best pop vocal album for "In the Lonely...
the year for "Stay With Me" at the 57th...
s Center in Los Angeles on Sunday night.

They still matter. Like books and black lives, they still matter."

Madonna, dressed as a matador, performed "Living for Love" atop a platform surrounded by a plethora of background dancers wearing bull masks. A choir did most of the singing, while Madonna danced and the audience clapped in unison. She ascended into the air as the performance finished.

West performed on a nearly pitch-black stage, with a light glowing from under his feet (he also sported the new sneakers he designed). He sang the new song about his late mother, "Only One."

Annie Lennox was a powerhouse when she joined Hozier for song-of-the-year nominee "Take Me to Church," which segued into the Screamin' Jay Hawkins classic, "I Put a Spell On You."

Beyonce won best R&B song and R&B performance for "Drunk In Love" and surround sound album for "Beyonce."

"This has been such an incredible year," she said, thanking her "beloved husband" and "my daughter, who is watching."

In one of 23 performances, AC/DC kicked off the show with a performance of their latest single, "Rock or Bust," and then transitioned into the band's 1979 classic "Highway to Hell." It earned a rousing applause from Pharrell, Lady Gaga and Katy

Perry, who were devil horns.

Ariana Grande gave a stripped, piano-led performance of "Just a Little Bit of Your Heart," a song co-written by One Direction's Harry Styles, while Miranda Lambert brought a rock-heavy vibe to "Little Red Wagon." She won best country album for "Platinum."

"I put my heart and soul in this record," she said. "Thank you so much for this amazing night. I love y'all!"

Cash led the pre-show with three Grammys, while Eminem, Kendrick Lamar, Chick Corea and the "Frozen" soundtrack earned two awards apiece.

"Reagan was president last time I won a Grammy," said Cash, who won best American roots performance, American roots song and Americana album. "I just showed up for work for 35 years, and this is what happened."

Lamar, who lost in seven categories last year, marked a redemption by winning best rap performance and rap song for "i." Eminem won best rap album, beating Common and Iggy Azalea. He also won best rap/sung collaboration for "The Monster" with Rihanna.

The late Joan Rivers won best spoken word album for "Diary of a Mad Diva," and her daughter, Melissa Rivers, was on hand to accept the award.



JOHN SHEARER, INVISION/AP

Of the 23 performances at the Grammys, one of the most powerful was turned in by Annie Lennox, right, who joined nominee Hozier, left, on his song "Take Me to Church," before the duo segued into the Screamin' Jay Hawkins classic "I Put a Spell on You."



Beyonce, who was nominated for six Grammys, won best R&B song and R&B performance for "Drunk in Love" and surround sound album for "Beyonce."

JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

57th Grammy Awards



PARTIAL LIST OF WINNERS

Album of the year
"Morning Phase," Beck

Song of the year
"Stay With Me," Sam Smith

Record of the year
"Stay With Me," Sam Smith

New artist
Sam Smith

Pop vocal album
"In the Lonely Hour," Sam Smith

Pop solo performance
"Happy (Live)," Pharrell Williams

Pop duo/group performance
"Say Something," A Great Big World and Christina Aguilera

Traditional pop vocal album
"Cheek to Cheek," Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett

Rock album
"Morning Phase," Beck

Rock performance
"Lazaretto," Jack White

Rock song
"Ain't It Fun," Hayley Williams and Taylor York

Best alternative music album
"St. Vincent," St. Vincent

Best metal performance
"Last in Line," Tenacious D

Rap album
"The Marshall Mathers LP2," Eminem

Rap performance
"i," Kendrick Lamar

Rap/sung collaboration
"The Monster," Eminem and Rihanna

Rap song
"i," Kendrick Lamar

R&B song
"Drunk in Love," Beyonce and Jay Z

R&B performance
"Drunk in Love," Beyonce and Jay Z

Urban contemporary album
"GIRL," Pharrell

R&B album
"Love, Marriage & Divorce," Toni Braxton and Babyface

Best traditional R&B performance
"Jesus Children," Robert Glasper Experiment featuring Malcolm Jamal Warner & Lalah Hathaway

Country album
"Platinum," Miranda Lambert

Country solo performance
"Something in the Water," Carrie Underwood

Country duo/group performance
"Gentle on My Mind," The Band Perry

Country song
"I'm Not Gonna Miss You," Glen Campbell

Folk album
"Remedy," Old Crow Medicine Show

Americana album
"The River and the Thread," Rosanne Cash

American roots song
"A Feather's Not a Bird," Rosanne Cash & John Leventhal

American roots performance
"A Feather's Not a Bird," Rosanne Cash

Bluegrass album
"The Earls of Leicester," The Earls of Leicester

Blues album
"Step Back," Johnny Winter

Go to grammy.com for a complete list of winners

SOURCES: The Associated Press; grammy.com

WORLD

Concordia victims to get justice?

Verdict likely this week in trial of ship's captain

By FRANCES D'EMILIO
The Associated Press

GROSSETO, Italy — Whatever verdict is delivered in the trial of the Italian sea captain for the shipwreck of the Costa Concordia cruise liner and for the deaths of 32 people, survivors and victims' families already are wondering if justice will be done.

The trial, expected to bring a verdict this week, has a sole defendant. Francesco Schettino is accused of causing the shipwreck on the night of Jan. 13, 2012, when he steered too close to a tiny Tuscan island, smashing into a granite reef that sliced open the hull and sent seawater rushing in.

Schettino is also charged with multiple manslaughter and injury, and of abandoning the luxury liner when many of the 4,200 passengers and crew were still aboard and desperately trying to save themselves — some by leaping into the sea — as the Concordia was capsizing.

Survivors, shivering as they staggered ashore on Giglio Island, were startled to see the captain already safe on land, "without even getting his feet wet," prosecutor Alessandro Leopizzi noted in closing arguments.

The cruise company, Costa Crociere SpA, has put the blame squarely on Schettino.

On Monday, Schettino was in court with a fever for final arguments, said his lawyer, Domenico Pepe. Schettino has repeatedly denied abandoning ship, saying he



GIACOMO APRILI/AP

Above: Italian sea captain Francesco Schettino attends his trial in Grosseto, Italy, on Monday. Right: The luxury cruise ship Costa Concordia leans on its side after running aground on Jan. 13 near the tiny Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy.

was thrown off as the ship capsized.

Pepe challenged prosecution contentions that Schettino should have immediately dropped anchor and ordered all to abandon ship. Had the anchor been lowered, the lawyer claimed, the Concordia would have quickly sunk — instead of eventually coming to rest on its side on a rocky seabed outside the port — and thousands would have perished.

"Like a good sailor, he read the wind and went ahead," Pepe said. Schettino was following a mariner's adage that "the ship is the best lifeboat," the lawyer argued.

Schettino became a sort of national villain when a recording emerged of an exasperated Coast Guard official's futile, repeated attempts to order him to return to the ship. The recording was played for the three-judge jury.

His lawyer told the court that prosecutors had offended an honest and "upright" man in their final arguments, during which they portrayed Schettino as a liar and a "reckless idiot."

Judge Giovanni Pulitiatti indicated on Monday that the trial will last at least another day, with deliberations to follow. Testimony has highlighted errors by other crew and equipment malfunctions in the chaotic hours surrounding the collision.



GREGORIO BORGIA/AP

In closing appeals to the court, lawyers for survivors and for victims' families insisted that senior executives of Costa Crociere be made to pay hefty damages for so much death and suffering.

"Something is missing in this trial of Schettino," said Cesare Bulgheroni, a lawyer who represents a Greek couple who survived and the estate of a German woman who didn't. "It is incomplete because, in our view, other responsibilities beyond his emerged."

In a phone interview, Bulgheroni highlighted some of what went wrong: An emergency diesel generator didn't work; elevators didn't shut down for safety reasons during the disaster; and some crew didn't speak Italian, the ship's working language, and others barely spoke English. The Indonesian-born helmsman botched a last-minute maneuver ordered by Schettino because he apparently didn't understand the command, as testimony revealed during the 19-month-long trial.

Putin relieves Sochi hotel investors of \$450M burden

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin offered to take on a vast hotel in Sochi, home to the 2014 Winter Games, from an oligarch and compensate him for the construction costs.

An Associated Press investigation last week revealed that at least two major Sochi investors, including tycoon Viktor Vekselberg, were quietly dumping their toxic assets on the state, forcing taxpayers

to pick up the bill. For the oligarchs, it's a way to recoup billions of dollars as they struggle in an economy battered by plunging oil prices and Western sanctions.

Vekselberg invested half a billion dollars to build two hotels next to the Olympic Park.

With the Sochi hotel market saturated, his company decided to hand over one hotel to the state, which amounts to dumping the \$450 million loan it took out from a state bank as well.

Putin, who chaired a meeting at the hotel about the future of a children's sports camp nearby, said it would be a good idea if the children could make use of it.

"I suggest giving away this to the children," he said late Sunday, according to a Kremlin transcript. "(We should) pay them all they have spent on construction to compensate for 'historic' losses but no profit."

The 2014 Winter Games hosted in the Black Sea resort of Sochi cost \$51 billion and became known as the most expensive Olympics in history.

‘(We should) pay them all they have spent on construction to compensate for ‘historic’ losses but no profit.’

Vladimir Putin
Russian president



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OPINION

Eisenhower Memorial needs final push

By BOB DOLE AND P.X. KELLEY

In our respective roles as chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission and co-chairman of the fundraising effort, we spent several years working to ensure that the dream of a National World War II Memorial became a reality. This remarkable edifice on the National Mall honors the service and sacrifice of more than 16 million Americans who served in World War II, many of whom lost their lives defending the freedoms on which America was established.

We are now ready for Round Two. More than a decade after we worked together successfully to spearhead the funding and construction of the National World War II Memorial, we are joining forces again to ensure that the National Eisenhower Memorial is built in Washington.

While working on the World War II Memorial, we met with a broad range of people — from individual veterans and the organizations that serve them to foundations, corporations and many of the states that sent a generation of Americans into battle during World War II. Everywhere we went, there was unanimous agreement that those who served, the campaigns in which they fought during World War II, and their brilliant military leaders should be honored in perpetuity on the National Mall.

Now we are turning our efforts to memorializing a great American whose incredible legacy also deserves to be remembered. The National Eisenhower Memorial will celebrate the accomplishments of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

As one of our nation's greatest military leaders, Eisenhower played an important role in ending Adolf Hitler's tyranny and saving millions of innocent lives. As a visionary two-term president, he put America on the path toward winning the Cold



Image courtesy of Gehry Partners LLP

This sculptural grouping commemorating Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower addressing troops of the 101st Airborne prior to D-Day will be part of the National Eisenhower Memorial on the National Mall. The memorial awaits federal funding that was promised when legislation creating it was passed in 1999.

War, leading the age of technology, and exploring space.

Eisenhower's memorial is in the home stretch. Final federal approvals should be finished by midyear. The memorial now awaits the federal funding promised when legislation creating it was passed by Congress as part of the 1999 Defense Appropriations Act.

As two of the driving forces behind the World War II Memorial, we have reunited to ensure that Eisenhower's contributions

to America, as both general and president, are honored in our nation's capital. As members of our military family, we invite you to join our effort. Please contact your members of Congress and ask them to support the funding of the National Eisenhower Memorial.

Thank you for your continued service to our great nation.

Former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole was the Republican presidential nominee in 1996 and vice presidential nominee in 1976. Retired Gen. P.X. Kelley is a former commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Brian Williams should not get our forgiveness

By DAN K. THOMASSON

Tribune News Service

EVERYBODY in the business of journalism makes a mistake now and then or deliberately embellishes his role in the drama of reporting on history. The tendency to exaggerate or overemphasize one's participation in covering major historic events is always there whether in the written or spoken retelling.

But when you're the richly paid anchor of a major television network speaking nightly to 9 million viewers, you had better resist the urge — especially in an age when your bosses have established you as the gold standard in news trustworthiness and you actually believe them.

Here you are on the top of the heap, reading what your correspondents and a battery of researchers provide you and suddenly it is discovered that the experiences you bring to the job aren't quite as good as you've made out. You just may not be the stainless recorder of the events that alter and illuminate our times, as the man who invented that persona, Walter Cronkite, used to say.

So, Brian Williams of NBC has taken some time off to weigh the consequences of not really telling the truth about his experience as a war correspondent and the chronicler of events in and around New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. This while a "team" of the net's editorial experts examines if there are more gaffes and whether he should continue in

his exalted role as the 29th most trusted American, according to a Reader's Digest poll last year.

The indication from him is he will return. That is, if, somewhere in his past he hasn't proclaimed that he was with Douglas MacArthur when the general made that statement. That would be harder to explain actually than the one about being under fire in a helicopter in Iraq, which never happened, or watching a body float by his French Quarter luxury hotel in a relative few inches of flood water etc., etc., etc. Much of the betting is that he can't overcome the damage already done. Rarely has the Internet been more flooded with negativity about a journalist.

What we're talking about here is less a matter of trust than of credibility — a far more fragile quality that once questioned is hard to recapture, particularly in this age of unrelenting social media (which obviously played a major part in exposing his inconsistencies). There were just too many around these claims who could dispute them and had the ability to reach the masses with their doubts.

Williams had little choice but to confess his sin and plead for forgiveness. So would I with \$10 million a year at stake.

Television after all is still first and foremost an entertainment medium that turns its anchors into actors, using floods and hurricanes and wars as props for staging their nightly 20 minutes of air time. Here is the trusted anchor standing in waist-high water, dramatically telling everyone there is a flood. Or as a longtime colleague re-

minded me, being dressed in a bush jacket and sporting a pearl-handled revolver in a shoulder holster. The great war correspondents of the past, like Cronkite, would be appalled. I hope.

If I sound like sour grapes from an old newspaper man, I apologize. But the Hollywood aspects of electronic journalism have never enthralled me. The lack of experience in the craft is amazing. An old friend said one learns quickly the difference between visiting a war zone and covering it. Following the troops is one thing and just talking about them quite another. It's the difference between Ernie Pyle and Edward R. Murrow for those who still remember.

The next few weeks for Williams will be crucial. As I was reminded, the whole thing is about numbers. If the geniuses that run the network news division profit centers find the ratings slipping, Brian is likely to be out there anchoring specials or doing his storytelling for one of the cable outlets. It is ever thus in this glitzy business where the "reporters" become more important than those they are covering.

It won't take the network bosses long to find some "Lawrence or Loretta Lovely" to build into a superstar ready and willing to learn how to interview the rock star of the moment or stand in the midst of obvious chaos, explaining to us of the poor benighted class that "the situation is chaotic," in trustworthiness tones.

Dan K. Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers.

OPINION

Lavrov's comedy act on Ukraine isn't funny

By JOSH ROGIN
Bloomberg News

In the span of 45 minutes, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov rewrote the history of the Cold War, accused the West of fomenting a coup in Ukraine and declared himself a champion of the United Nations Charter. The crowd here in Germany laughed at and then booed him, but he didn't seem to care.

When Lavrov took the stage Saturday morning at the Munich Security Conference, he knew it was going to be a tough crowd. He was speaking just after German Chancellor Angela Merkel and ahead of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden. For two days, almost all of the panelists at the conference had railed against Russia's actions in Ukraine. The debates were not over whether Russia was a bad actor spoiling international security, but rather how to deal with that consensus view.

He looked nervous, perhaps because Sergei Ivanov, chief of staff to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Lavrov's superior, was sitting in the front row, staring at him as if to warn him not to mess up. But none of that kept him from turning in an audacious performance.

In any situation, the United States is trying to blame Russia for everything," he said. "Russia will be committed to peace. We are against combat. We would like to see a withdrawal of heavy weapons."

Lavrov then accused the U.S. of supporting military attacks against innocent Ukrainians. (He chose not to mention the Russian heavy weaponry in eastern Ukraine or the hundreds of Russian military advisers on the ground.) Lavrov accused the Ukrainian military and government of being anti-Jewish and said that the Hungarian minority in Ukraine was

being mistreated. He called out the U.S. for negotiating with the Afghan Taliban but — in his view — not supporting negotiations between the Ukraine government and the eastern separatists.

Talking about the possibility of the U.S. giving lethal aid to the Ukrainian military, Lavrov leveled a thinly veiled threat that the Russians might invade Ukraine outright, as they did Georgia seven years ago after what they saw as provocation from President Mikhail Saakashvili.

"I don't think our Ukrainian colleagues should hope the support they are receiving will solve their problems," he said. "That support ... is going to their heads in the way it did for Saakashvili in 2008, and we know how that ended."

The crowd took that in stride, but then burst out laughing when Lavrov said that the annexation of Crimea, which was invaded by unmarked Russian troops, was an example of international legal norms working well.

"What happened in Crimea was the people invoking the right of self-determination," he said. "You've got to read the U.N. Charter. Territorial integrity and sovereignty must be respected."

As chuckles filled the ballroom of the elegant Hotel Bayerischer Hof, Lavrov shrugged it off. "You may find it funny. I also found many things you said funny."

But the laughter turned to scorn when Lavrov made a muddled comparison of the Ukraine crisis with the division of Germany in the Cold War. "Germany got reunited without a referendum and we were an active supporter of that process after the Second World War," he said. "You will remember that it was the Soviet Union that was against splitting Germany."

He was trying to make the point that Russia supports popular votes to end in-



MATTHIAS SCHRAEDER/AP

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov delivers his speech at the Munich Security Conference on Saturday. His assertion that "what happened in Crimea was the people invoking the right of self-determination" drew chuckles from the audience.

ternal wars — such as the referendums in Crimea and the eastern Ukrainian area of Donetsk — while the West does not.

But that was the moment at which any remaining respect for Lavrov among the largely German audience vanished. Apparently, they didn't remember the Soviet Union's actions as particularly helpful in bringing about reunification. There was, for example, the Berlin Wall.

The booing of the crowd was amplified on Twitter by several participants, including former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, who wrote: "Lavrov accuses EU of 'supporting coup d'état' in Kiev. I hope he feels somewhat ashamed of having to mar-

ket such rubbish."

Wolfgang Ischinger, chairman of the Munich Security Conference, was moderating the question-and-answer session on stage with Lavrov. He tried to find common ground, saying, "The issues we are discussing here are no laughing matter from any side."

Actually, it was funny, but not because the fate of Ukraine should be trivialized. The entire episode made it obvious that any notion that the West and Russia can have a discussion on Ukraine, based on a shared vision of reality, is absurd.

Josh Rogin is a Bloomberg View columnist who writes about national security and foreign affairs.

Why US is courting the Houthi regime in Yemen

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

The Houthis, Shiite Muslim rebels who announced that they were taking control of Yemen's government last week, don't seem much like natural allies of the United States.

One of their favorite slogans is "Death to America, death to Israel, damn the Jews." U.S. officials say they've received money, weapons and training from Iran. An Iranian official boasted recently that thanks to the Houthis, Yemen's capital is now "in the hands of Iran," along with those of Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

And yet, last week, Obama administration officials were scrambling to contact Houthi leaders and assure them that the United States doesn't consider them an enemy. "We're talking with everybody," an official told me. "Everybody who talks with us." The Houthis' top leaders haven't been willing to meet so far, but the Americans are working on it.

Why so much eagerness for a working relationship with a group that wants less U.S. influence in its homeland, not more? Because the Houthis and their allies are now in charge in Yemen, one of the main battlegrounds in the long U.S. war against al-Qaida. And the Houthis hate al-Qaida.

U.S. officials consider the al-Qaida branch in Yemen a bigger threat than any other terrorist group because of its penchant for long-distance attacks against Americans. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as the group is known, has made several attempts to explode bombs on U.S.



HANI MOHAMMED/AP

Houthi Shiite Yemenis stand guard at the parliament during a meeting in Sanaa, Yemen, on Monday.

airliners, although none has succeeded.

The Houthis are Shiite Muslims and al-Qaida is rigorously Sunni, but the antipathy isn't mainly sectarian; it's an old-fashioned struggle over territory and power. The Houthis have ruled most of northwestern Yemen for centuries, and they've been alarmed by al-Qaida's incursions to their south. The two factions have already fought battles on the ground. One of the Houthis' complaints against the Yemeni government they just overthrew was that it wasn't putting enough force into the battle against al-Qaida. Last week, al-Qaida issued a statement accusing the Houthis — a little prematurely, perhaps — of being "faithful partners of the United States."

In other words, for the U.S., the enemy of my enemy is my friend. But what about the Houthis' Iran problem? Should we be worried that the enemy of our enemy al-Qaida is also friends with our other enemies — adversaries, anyway — in Tehran?

"Iran is on the march," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., warned last week. "In Yemen, it's not AQAP that's taken over the government, it's the Houthis." McCain said the solution was "more boots on the ground" — not a U.S. invasion force, but special operations forces.

Obama administration officials insist that those fears are overblown. The Houthis "get support from Iran, but they're not controlled by Iran," one official told me last week.

Houthi leaders dissolved Yemen's parliament on Friday after weeks of political negotiations deadlocked. Now they are trying to form a transitional government, and they say it will include representatives of most of the country's factions. (Only about a third of Yemen's 25 million people are Houthis; a Houthi-only government would win little support in the Sunni south.)

The central question for U.S. officials is whether that next government can be persuaded to join in counterterrorism against al-Qaida at all — let alone as enthusiastically as the last government.

That was tested over the last two weeks as the United States resumed drone strikes in Yemen after a pause of several months amid the political chaos in Sanaa.

U.S. officials said they were pleased to find that there was no discernible reaction. But that acquiescence seems unlikely to

last. Houthi leaders have long denounced U.S. drone strikes as an invasion of Yemen's sovereignty; they say they can handle al-Qaida themselves.

And American experts on Yemen say the drone strikes are widely unpopular. "It really has fueled tremendous resentment," said Stacey Philbrick Yadav, a professor at Hobart and William Smith Colleges who has lived in Yemen. "I have never met a [Yemeni] defender of the strategy. It's not criticism; it's more like repulsion."

Indeed, the drone strikes may have been a factor in the fall of Yemeni President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, who pleased U.S. officials with his open endorsements of cooperation with the United States but proved incapable of retaining support among his own country's political factions.

In President Barack Obama's view, there's no alternative to trying to keep the partnership alive. But as U.S. diplomats wait hopefully for their appointments with Yemen's new Houthi power-brokers, they may want to remind themselves of some old lessons about power politics in the Middle East:

Be careful before you claim any moral as a success (as Obama said of Yemen only last year); you may live to rue those words.

When a shaky government declares itself your ally, as Hadi did, that doesn't mean it's acquired extra wisdom. And the enemy of your enemy may be your friend today, but that doesn't make him your friend forever.

Doyle McManus is a Los Angeles Times columnist.

NHL



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Bruins center Gregory Campbell, left, and Canadiens goalie Carey Price try to grab the puck during the third period on Sunday in Boston. The Canadiens defeated the Bruins 3-1 to sweep the season series.

Roundup

Canadiens cap rare sweep

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Four games, four wins and rare season sweep for the Montreal Canadiens over the Boston Bruins.

Carey Price made 34 saves to lift the Canadiens to a 3-1 victory Sunday night, giving Montreal wins in all four meetings this season.

"There's been a lot of matchups between those two teams in the past here, in the playoffs also," Canadiens coach Michel Therrien said. "But who knows what's going to happen? We don't know, but definitely, it brings some confidence. But honestly, there's still a lot of hockey to be played, and we're still a long way from the playoffs."

Dale Weise and Max Pacioretty each had a goal and an assist for the Canadiens, who completed their first regular-season sweep of Boston since taking all eight meetings in 2007-08.

"This win means a lot," Weise said. "That's a good hockey team over there, so it says a lot about our team. Price made some unbelievable saves to keep us in the game like he does every night, so it gives us a lot of confidence beating a team like that."

Price has won seven of eight and allowed 11 goals in that span. He extended his shutout streak against Boston to 159:25 last night. David Pastrnak cut Montreal's lead to 2-1 when he batted the puck to

ward the net and Price appeared to have made the stop, but his glove was behind the goal line and after replay, the goal was allowed.

Boston has one win in its last 11 games against the Canadiens, including six straight home losses. "As soon as we start trying to play like them, we turn the puck over and that's where they capitalize," Bruins forward Brad Marchand said.

Islanders 3, Sabres 2: Mikhail Grabovski's snap shot from the slot midway through the second period stood up as the winner for the New York Islanders, who hung on against Buffalo.

Rookie Anders Lee and Colin McDonald also scored for the Islanders, who nearly squandered a 3-0 lead. Travis Hamonic had two assists in helping New York vault into first place in the Metropolitan Division.

Lightning 5, Ducks 3: Brian Boyle scored the first of his two goals during host Tampa Bay's three-goal first period.

Valtteri Filppula, Nikita Kucherov and Ryan Callahan also scored for the Atlanta Lightning, leading Lightning, who had a franchise-record 10-game home winning streak end Saturday.

Ducks center Ryan Getzlaf, who returned after missing two games due to a lower-body injury, scored his 200th NHL goal.

Stars 3, Rangers 2 (OT): Ales Hemsky scored 1:02 into overtime as visiting Dallas overcame a late tying goal by Chris Kreider to snap a three-game skid.

Kreider tied it with his 12th of the season, and the power play at 18:40 of the third.

Jason Spezza and Erik Cole

each scored second-period goals for Dallas. Spezza opened the scoring on a 5-on-3 power-play for the Stars at 2:53 of the second period with his 10th goal of the season. Tyler Seguin and John Klingberg assisted.

Flyers 3, Capitals 1: Wayne Simmonds scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period as visiting Philadelphia beat Washington, despite losing starting goalie Steve Mason to an injury.

Jakub Voracek added an empty-netter for his 18th of the season, and Mark Streit also scored for the Flyers, who have won five of six.

Mason, who stopped all eight shots he faced, left the ice at 11:18 of the second period and had to be helped to the locker room.

Predators 3, Panthers 2 (SO): Filip Forsberg tied up on a power play with 4:33 left in regulation and scored the shootout winner in the visiting Predators' victory.

Forsberg poked the puck past Roberto Luongo in the fifth round of the shootout.

Matt Cullen and Craig Smith also scored shootout goals for Nashville.

Blackhawks 4, Blues 2: Marian Hossa's power-play goal broke a third-period tie and he clinched it with an empty-netter for the visiting Blackhawks.

Aryan Bickel had a goal and assisted on the go-ahead tally for Chicago, which also got a goal from Marcus Kruger.

Jets 5, Avalanche 3: Mathieu Perreault and Dustin Byfuglien each had a goal and two assists as host Winnipeg ended a six-game slide by beating Colorado.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Tampa Bay	53	34	15	5	73	145	115		
Montreal	52	34	15	3	71	141	117		
Detroit	52	31	12	9	71	135	130		
Boston	53	28	18	7	63	139	131		
Pittsburgh	52	28	18	6	62	137	145		
Toronto	54	23	27	4	50	155	165		
Ottawa	51	22	29	9	49	139	144		
Buffalo	54	15	35	3	33	102	189		

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
N.Y. Islanders	53	30	15	8	68	151	134		
Pittsburgh	53	30	15	8	68	151	134		
Washington	54	28	18	8	64	152	145		
N.Y. Rangers	51	30	16	5	65	152	123		
Philadelphia	53	23	23	9	51	145	155		
New Jersey	53	21	23	9	51	141	146		
Columbus	51	23	25	3	49	132	157		
Carolina	52	19	35	7	45	116	139		

Western Conference

Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Nashville	53	35	12	6	76	161	127		
St. Louis	53	34	15	4	72	158	132		
Chicago	53	33	18	2	68	161	121		
Winnipeg	52	29	19	4	64	152	145		
Minnesota	51	25	20	6	56	139	140		
Minnesota	53	23	28	2	48	157	172		
Colorado	54	22	21	11	55	137	152		

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Anaheim	54	34	13	7	75	162	148		
San Jose	54	28	19	7	63	153	149		
Vancouver	51	29	19	6	64	149	131		
Calgary	53	29	21	3	61	152	136		
Los Angeles	52	28	18	12	56	140	141		
Arizona	53	19	27	7	45	122	176		
Edmonton	53	14	34	9	31	117	177		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Sunday's games
Nashville 3, Florida 2, SO
Pacifi c 4, St. Louis 1
Philadelphia 3, Washington 1
N.Y. Islanders 3, Buffalo 2

Tuesday's games
Tampa Bay 5, Anaheim 3
Dallas 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT
Winnipeg 3, Colorado 2
Montreal 3, Boston 1

Monday's games
Edmonton at New Jersey
Los Angeles at Columbus
Vancouver at Minnesota
Arizona at Chicago
Calgary at San Jose

Tuesday's games
Dallas at Boston
Ottawa at Buffalo
Edmonton at N.Y. Islanders
N.Y. Rangers at Toronto
Philadelphia at Montreal
Anaheim at Florida
Arizona at St. Louis
Tampa Bay at Nashville
Minnesota at Winnipeg

Wednesday's games
Vancouver at Colorado
Detroit at Pittsburgh
Washington at San Jose

Sunday

Canadiens 3, Bruins 1

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Montreal	53	34	15	5	73	145	115		
Boston	52	31	12	9	71	135	130		

Second Period—1, Montreal, Weise 9 (Pacioretty, Deshaies), 28.

Predators 3, Panthers 2 (SO): Filip Forsberg tied up on a power play with 4:33 left in regulation and scored the shootout winner in the visiting Predators' victory.

Forsberg poked the puck past Roberto Luongo in the fifth round of the shootout.

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Kreider tied it with his 12th of the season, and the power play at 18:40 of the third.

Jason Spezza and Erik Cole

Lightning 5, Ducks 3

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Anaheim	54	23	27	4	50	155	165		

First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Boyle (Hedman, Connolly), 2:55. 2, Tampa Bay, Filppula 11 (Stamkos, Callahan), 13:42. 3, Tampa Bay, Kucherov 20 (Johnson, Filppula), 18:52.

Second Period—4, Anaheim, Getzlaf 17 (Berry, Beleskey), 4:49. 5, Anaheim, Getzlaf 12 (Connolly, Palat), 14:27.

Third Period—8, Tampa Bay, Callahan 15 (Stamkos, Filppula), 6:14. 7, Anaheim, Vatanen 12 (Getzlaf, Bryzgalov), 14:57 (pp). 8, Anaheim, Brewer 1 (Thompson, Cogliandro), 17:26.

Shots on Goal—Anaheim 4-12-12—28. Tampa Bay 10-9-4—23.

Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 1 of 5; Tampa Bay 0 of 5.

Goals—Anaheim: Andersen 29-8 (5 (22 shots-17 saves), Bryzgalov (10:02 third, 1-1), Tampa Bay, Bishop 27-9 (28-25).

A—19:204 (19,204). T—2:38.

Islanders 3, Sabres 2

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
N.Y. Islanders	53	30	15	8	68	151	134		
Buffalo	52	28	18	6	62	137	145		

First Period—1, N.Y. Islanders, McDonald 1 (Gozales), 16:19.

Second Period—2, N.Y. Islanders, Fleischnig 6 (Bollman, Tavares), 10:24. 3, N.Y. Islanders, Grabovski 9 (Hamonick, Hosen), 11:23. 4, Buffalo, Foligno 6 (Zorow, Flynn), 12:33. 5, Buffalo, Stafford 9 (Foligno), 14:57.

Shots on Goal—N.Y. Islanders 9-15-7-31. Buffalo 6-10-10-22.

Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Islanders 1 of 2; Buffalo 0 of 3.

Goals—N.Y. Islanders, Hask 28-11-10 (10 shots-8 saves), Hask 28-11-10 (14-13-28).

A—18:900 (19,070). T—2:20.

Predators 3, Panthers 2 (SO)

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Nashville	53	35	12	6	76	161	127		
Florida	52	31	12	9	71	135	130		

Nashville won shootout 3-2

Second Period—1, Florida, Fleischnig 6 (Bollman, Tavares), 10:24. 2, Florida, Eklund 8 (Hayes), 14:27.

Third Period—Nashville, Jones 5 (Ribeiro), 4:44 (pp). 4, Nashville, Forsberg 18, 15:17 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Nashville 3 (Cullen, Smith, G. Josi, N. Forsberg) 9-14-2 (Pirri, N. Boyes, B. Sjogard, C. Killand, N.C.).

Shots on Goal—Nashville 9-10-4-25. Florida 11-7-15-36.

Power-play opportunities—Nashville 2 of 4; Florida 0 of 4.

Goals—Nashville, Hutton 5-4-4 (36 shots-34 saves), Florida, Ouelin 19-13-9 (25-23).

A—10:844 (17,040). T—2:38.

Flyers 3, Capitals 1

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Philadelphia	53	30	15	8	68	151	134		
Washington	52	28	18	6	62	137	145		

Second Period—1, Philadelphia, Streit 8 (Zotto, Giroux), 50. 2, Washington, Ovechkin 3 (Kuznetsov, Backstrom), 13:29 (pp).

Third Period—Philadelphia, Simmonds 19 (Couturier, Redden), 35:50. 4, Philadelphia, Voracek 18 (Schenn, Giroux), 19:23 (en-pp).

Shots on Goal—Philadelphia 8-7-10-25. Washington 5-5-14-24.

Power-play opportunities—Philadelphia 1 of 2; Washington 0 of 2.

Goals—Philadelphia, Mason (8 shots-8 saves), Emery 9-9-1 (11:18 second, 1-1). Washington, Ovechkin 25-11-9 (24-22).

A—18:506 (18,506). T—2:32.

Blackhawks 4, Blues 2

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago	51	31	12	8	70	161	127		
St. Louis	52	28	18	6	62	137	145		

First Period—1, Chicago, Kruger 5 (Carroll), 4:38.

Second Period—2, St. Louis, Tarasenko 28 (Schwartz, Stastny), 6:52. 3, Chicago, Marian Hossa 14 (Regehr, Giroux), 11:25. 4, St. Louis, Backes 18 (Oshie, Pietrangeli), 12:53.

Third Period—5, Chicago, Hossa 11 (Saad, Bickell), 11:19 (pp). 6, Chicago, Hossa 12 (Regehr, Giroux), 19:46 (en-pp).

Shots on Goal—Chicago 9-12-28. St. Louis 12-12-37.

Power-play opportunities—Chicago 1 of 2; St. Louis 0 of 1.

Goals—Chicago, Crawford 21-12-27 (27 shots-25 saves), St. Louis, Elliott 16-7-27 (24-24).

A—18:657 (19,150). T—2:24.

Calendar

Feb. 21—Stadium Series: Los Angeles vs. San Jose at Anaheim, Calif.

March 2—NHL trade deadline.

March 14-15—NHL general managers meeting, Boca Raton, Fla.

April 15—Stanley Cup playoffs begin.

April 16-26—IHF Under-18 World Championship, Zug and Lucerne, Switzerland.

April 17—IIHF World Championship, Prague and Ostrava, Czech Republic.

June 17—Last possible day for Stanley Cup trade deadline.

June 26-27—NHL draft, Sunrise, Fla.

July 1—Free agency begins.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Charges against Panthers' Hardy dropped

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Prosecutors dismissed domestic violence charges against Panthers defensive end and soon-to-be free agent Greg Hardy on Monday after they said the accuser in the case couldn't be found.

The dismissal happened just as Hardy's appeal in the case was set to begin. Mecklenburg County district attorney Andrew Murray told the judge that officials attempted many times to contact the woman, but failed. Murray said the woman had reached a civil suit agreement with Hardy.

Hardy, whose NFL future is uncertain, left with his attorney and did not answer questions. Moments before court convened, Hardy appeared calm, tweeting that he was would be giving away a pair of his game cleats to a fan who could name his favorite color, his favorite president and his favorite NBA player.

Hardy was convicted last summer on assault on a female and communicating threats in a case involving a former girlfriend. The Associated Press generally does not name victims of abuse.

Murray told Superior Court Judge Robert T. Sumner that law enforcement had taken "extraordinary" measures to find the accuser so that she could testify during the appeal. He said they took surveillance of her new address, attempted to find her at work and tried to contact relatives but couldn't locate her.

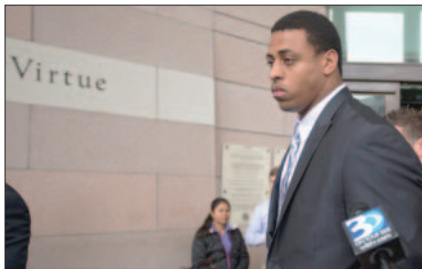
The woman's attorney also would not share information about her location, he said.

The accuser had testified on July 15 that she was scared of Hardy and worried about her safety if she went to police.

She also testified that Hardy threw her in the bathroom and later on to a futon filled with guns. She also said he placed his hands on her throat and threatened to kill her.

"He looked me in my eyes and he told me he was going to kill me," the woman testified on July 15. "I was so scared I wanted to die. When he loosened his grip slightly, I said just, 'Do it. Kill me.'"

Hardy testified that he never hit nor threw the accuser, and didn't threaten her. He said the woman



Carolina Panthers defensive end Greg Hardy leaves the Mecklenburg County Courthouse on Monday after his domestic violence charges were dismissed in Charlotte, N.C.

CHRIS KEANE/AP

became angry when he wouldn't have sex with her and he left the room to sleep in the living room.

Panthers general manager Dave Gettleman did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment on the dismissal. Team spokesman Steve Drummond said it's possible the team could have a statement at a later time.

Hardy's NFL future remains uncertain. He's scheduled to become an unrestricted free agent in March and it's uncertain if the Panthers will try to re-sign him.

It's also unclear if the NFL will hand down any punishment against Hardy based on his original conviction. Hardy had faced a possible six-game suspension under NFL commissioner Roger Goodell's toughened stance on domestic violence following the Ray Rice ordeal.

League spokesman Greg Aiello said in an email Monday to The Associated Press that Hardy remains on the commissioner's exempt list.

"His status remains unchanged until we fully review the matter," Aiello said in the email.

Shields reaches 4-year deal with Padres

SAN DIEGO — Right-hander James Shields, who helped Kansas City reach the World Series last season, has agreed to a four-year contract with the San Diego

Padres.

Shields is the latest addition by first-year general manager A.J. Preller, who in December added sluggers Matt Kemp, Justin Upton and Wil Myers, as well as Derek Norris and Will Middlebrooks.

Shields was traded from Tampa Bay to Kansas City two years ago in a deal in which Myers, then the Royals' top prospect, was acquired by the Rays.

Shields was 14-8 with a 3.21 ERA last season and declined a \$15.3 million qualifying offer from the Royals. He lost both of his World Series starts, outdueling each time by Madison Bumgarner.

By signing Shields, the Padres lose their first-round pick, 13th overall, in June's amateur draft. The Royals get an extra pick after the first round.

An All-Star in 2011, Shields is 114-90 with a 3.72 ERA in nine seasons.

At least 25 dead in Egypt soccer riot

CAIRO — A riot broke out Sunday night outside of a major soccer game in Egypt, with a stampede and fighting between police and fans killing at least 25 people, authorities said.

The riot, only three years after similar violence killed 74 people, began ahead of a match between Egyptian Premier League clubs

Zamalek and ENPPI at Air Defense Stadium east of Cairo. Such attacks in the past have sparked days of violent protests pitting the country's hard-core fans against police officers in a nation already on edge after years of revolt.

Two security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the violence killed at least 25 people.

Egypt's public prosecutor issued a statement ordering an investigation. After convening an emergency meeting to discuss the violence, the Cabinet announced that it was postponing upcoming soccer matches until further notice, Egypt's state television said.

What caused the violence wasn't immediately clear. Security officials said Zamalek fans tried to force their way into the match without tickets, sparking clashes.

Vets Bradley, Dempsey lift US over Panama

CARSON, Calif. — When Michael Bradley curled a corner kick over the Panama defense and into the net for a spectacular goal, Clint Dempsey was unsure exactly how it happened.

"You'd have to ask him whether he was aiming for that, because we didn't know," Dempsey said, laughing.

With big goals from both veterans and a clean sheet, the United States provided ample reason for more excitement heading into an eventful year.

Bradley scored in the 27th minute, Dempsey added his 40th career goal later in the first half, and the Americans snapped a five-game winless skid with a 2-0 victory over Panama on Sunday.

The Americans wrapped up a monthlong training camp with their best result in 10 games since winning their opener at last year's World Cup. The U.S. had won just once since beating Ghana in Brazil, but coach Jurgen Klinsmann's squad looked considerably sharper in its home opener for a big year that includes the Gold Cup and World Cup qualifying.

Day wins four-man playoff at Torrey Pines

SAN DIEGO — Two feet away

from chipping into the water, Jason Day turned a good break into a big win Sunday in the Farmers Insurance Open when he won a four-man playoff with a par on the second extra hole at tough Torrey Pines.

Day's gamble in regulation looked as if it might backfire when he went long of the green on the par-5 18th, and his chip out of deep rough raced down the hill, over the front of the green and was headed for the water when it stopped at the hazard line. He got up-and-down for par and a 2-under 70.

Day and J.B. Holmes each birdied the 18th in the playoff, while Scott Stallings and Harris English were eliminated with pars. On the second extra hole at the par-3 16th, Holmes went over the green, chipped to 15 feet and missed the par putt. Day hit 5-iron to 15 feet and made par for his third PGA Tour victory.

In Other golf news:

■ South Korean rookie Sei Young Kim won the Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic for her first LPGA Tour title, holing an 8-foot birdie putt on the first hole of a playoff with countrywoman Sun Yoon Yoo and Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn.

■ Paul Goydos closed with a birdie for a 3-under 69 and a one-stroke victory over Gene Sauers in the Champions Tour's Allianz Championship.

Thunder's Adams out after hand surgery

OKLAHOMA CITY — Thunder center Steven Adams underwent surgery Monday to repair a fractured bone in his right hand and will be out at least three weeks.

The team said Monday that the procedure was considered a success.

Adams was injured Sunday against the Los Angeles Clippers. He was fouled on the play, and stayed in the game to shoot the free throws. He shot both with his left hand, missing the first attempt. He made the second, drawing a roar from the crowd.

In 50 games this season, all starts, Adams is averaging 7.4 points, 7.0 rebounds and 1.2 blocks.

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X EXCHANGE

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COLLEGE BASEBALL

SEASON PREVIEW



NATI HARNIK/AP

In this June 22, 2014 photo, Vanderbilt coach Tim Corbin speaks at a news conference in Omaha, Neb., with Virginia coach Brian O'Connor, left. Vanderbilt is the defending national champion and unanimous preseason No. 1 team in college baseball. Virginia was national runner-up and enters the season well-stocked with starting pitching and one of the nation's best recruiting classes.

Heading for a rematch?

Champion Vanderbilt, runner-up UVA favored to meet in World Series again

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Vanderbilt is the defending national champion and unanimous preseason No. 1 team in college baseball. Virginia was national runner-up and enters the season well-stocked with starting pitching and one of the nation's best recruiting classes.

No one would be surprised if the Commodores and Cavaliers were to meet again in late June in the College World Series finals.

First, Vanderbilt must get through the grind of a Southeastern Conference schedule loaded with national title contenders like LSU, Florida and South Carolina. And Virginia will face the usual challenges in the Atlantic Coast Conference from Florida State, North Carolina, Louisville and Clemson — none of them strangers to Omaha.

Vanderbilt coach Tim Corbin isn't interested in talk about repeating.

"Whether we were 54-21 or 21-54 (last year), it's a new team and a new group," he said. "They'll go on their own path and author their book. Their experiences can certainly help, but beyond that, they don't have much to do with our identity this season."

Virginia was in its third CWS in six years and in the finals for the first time, and coach Brian O'Connor said losing a three-game final provides motivation.

"I think they can draw a lot from it, not only the journey to get there, but knowing they are playing in a program that can put itself in a position to have a chance to win it all," O'Connor said.

Four schools have made it to the CWS finals since the NCAA went to a best-of-three championship round in 2003. South Carolina did it three years in a row (2010-12) and Texas did it in consecutive years (2004-05), but only Oregon State and North Carolina have played a rematch (2006-07).

Vanderbilt returns CWS Most Outstanding Player Dansby Swanson, who'll move from second base to shortstop, and most of its other everyday players. Carson Fulmer (7-1, 1.98), Walker Buehler (12-2, 2.64) and Tyler Ferguson (8-4, 2.69) are as good as any weekend rotation in the country, and Hayden Stone is back to anchor the bullpen.

Virginia isn't expected to drop off even though it lost five starting position players and their top four relievers. The Cavaliers will be carried by starting pitchers Nathan



Vanderbilt's Dansby Swanson, the CWS Most Outstanding Player, will return for the 2015 season, moving from second base to shortstop.

Kirby (9-3, 1.06) and Brandon Waddell (10-3, 2.45). O'Connor said he hadn't decided on a third starter to replace Josh Sborz (6-4, 2.92), who is moving to the closer's role.

"We're going to rely a lot on freshmen from a position-player standpoint and in our bullpen," O'Connor said. "A lot of it will come down to how quickly they mature."

5 things to watch

New college season brings flat seams, Texas dreams

A few things to know as college baseball's regular season begins on Feb. 13:

1 More Offense? The flat-seam baseball makes its debut with the hope that it will counter the drop in offense since new bat standards were adopted in 2011. Coaches say research showing the ball travels farther than the old raised-seam ball has been confirmed in practices. The change should lead to more scoring in a sport that has long searched for the right balance between offense, pitching and safety.

2 Familiar favorites: Vanderbilt and Virginia played each other in last year's College World Series finals, with the Commodores winning their first national championship in baseball. Both programs are among the early favorites to make it back to Omaha. Among the other schools that have high hopes: 2013 national champion UCLA, 2010 and 2011 champion South Carolina and 2011 runner-up Florida.

3 Talented Texans: It could be a banner season for several programs in the Lone Star State, an area that's long been home to some of the nation's top talent. Dbaseball.com has six teams from Texas in its preseason top 25, including No. 7 Houston, No. 8 TCU, No. 10 Texas, No. 13 Rice, No. 16 Texas Tech and No. 17 Texas A&M. Texas, Texas Tech and TCU all reached Omaha last season. The high expectations come after no team from Texas was represented in the 2012 or 2013 College World Series — a relative dry spell.

4 Power arms: Many of college baseball's biggest stars can be found on the mound. Vanderbilt's Walker Buehler and Carson Fulmer, Virginia's Nathan Kirby, Duke's Michael Matuella, Louisville's Kyle Funkhouser and UCLA's James Kaprielian are among those expected to post big numbers and be high picks in June's Major League Baseball draft.

5 Wide-open West: College baseball observers are high on UCLA and all its pitching, but it otherwise looks to be a down year on the West Coast. Oregon State, the NCAA tournament's No. 1 national seed, was bounced in regionals and lost all its biggest stars. Stanford and Washington's offenses were gutted. Big West champ Cal Poly will be hard-pressed to repeat a breakthrough season that ended when it failed to make it out of its regional.

— The Associated Press

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Players to watch

Michael Matuella, RHP, Duke, junior.

■ This is a huge season for the 6-foot-7, 220-pounder who's a projected high first-round draft pick based on potential. His fastball has touched 97 mph, and he has a wicked curveball and improving slider, but he's been beset by injury and didn't pitch last summer.

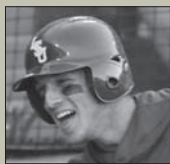


**Walker Buehler, RHP,
Vanderbilt, junior.**

■ He pitched more than 100 innings and went 12-2 with a 2.64 ERA for the national champion Commodores and then was co-playoff MVP in the Cape Cod League. He's added 15 pounds to his 6-foot-1 frame to get up to 175.

**Dansby Swanson, SS,
Vanderbilt, junior.**

■ Swanson started 72 games at second base, batted .333 and was named Most Outstanding Player of the CWS. He'll move to shortstop this season, though scouts believe his future is at second.



**Alex Bregman, SS,
LSU, junior.**

■ He's been the most consistent offensive threat in the Tigers' lineup the past two years. He batted .451 with six doubles, three homers and 16 RBIs over the final 12 games, and turned in a second straight strong summer with the U.S. Collegiate National Team.

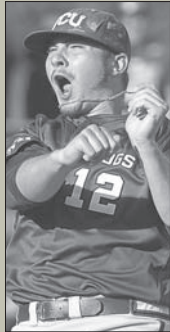
**Ryan Boldt, OF,
Nebraska, sophomore.**

■ The Huskers excelled with Boldt leading off the second half of last season. He was 6-for-10 in the Stillwater Regional and had a sensational summer in the Northwoods League.

SEASON PREVIEW

**Riley Ferrell, RHP,
TCU, junior.**

■ The Louisville Slugger preseason national player of the year had a 0.79 ERA, struck out 70 in 45 1/3 innings and set a school record with 15 saves. He needs three more saves to break the school career record of 20.

**Nathan Kirby, LHP, Virginia, junior.**

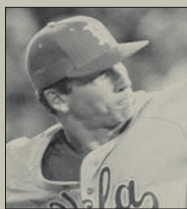
■ After working out of the bullpen in 2013, Kirby was the No. 1 starter and the ACC pitcher of the year. He struck out 18 while no-hitting Pittsburgh and finished 2014 ranked among the national leaders in hits allowed and strikeouts.

**Ian Happ, OF,
Cincinnati, junior.**

■ The switch-hitting Happ is poised to become highest draft pick in a program whose biggest-name alum is Kevin Youkilis. Happ batted .322 each of the past two years for Cincinnati and is a two-time Cape Cod League All-Star.

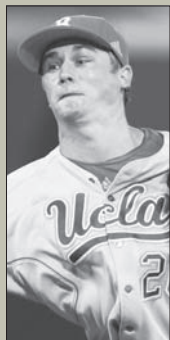
Sikes Orvis, 1B, Mississippi, senior.

■ Orvis hit a team-leading 14 home runs and had a .540 slugging percentage, and he committed only three errors at first. He starred in the postseason, driving in the go-ahead run in the regional-clinching win and homering in the super-regional win that sent the Rebels to the CWS.



**James Kaprielian, RHP,
UCLA, junior.**

■ Kaprielian is a big reason why the Bruins are predicted to bounce back after following their 2013 national championship with a sub-.500 campaign. The 6-4, 200-pounder got better as the season progressed and led the Pac 12 with 108 strikeouts in 106 innings.



**David Berg, RHP,
UCLA, senior.**

■ The unexpected return of sidearm closer David Berg, UCLA's all-time appearances (132) and saves (36) leader — who turned down the Rangers as a 17th-round pick — should be a boon for UCLA, which fell to 25-30-1 last season after winning the national title in 2013.

— The Associated Press



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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Roundup

Iowa routs No. 17 Terps

The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Aaron White scored 17 points, Adam Woodbury matched a career high with 16 and Iowa throttled 17th-ranked Maryland 71-55 on Sunday.

Peter Jok also matched a career high with 15 points for the Hawkeyes (15-8, 6-4 Big Ten). They opened the game on a 22-3 run and handed the Terrapins their third straight road loss — all by double digits.

The Terrapins (19-5, 7-4) scored just 17 points on 6-for-25 shooting in the first half as Iowa raced out to a 23-point lead. Maryland got back within 15 before a technical foul on coach Mark Turgeon with 10 minutes left slowed much of its momentum.

Melo Trimble had 20 points to lead Maryland, which was out-rebounded 30-19.

Maryland had been awful in its past two road games, losing at Indiana and Ohio State by 43 combined points.

The Terrapins looked just as bad against the Hawkeyes.

Maryland had as many turnovers, eight, as shots in the first 10 minutes. Its defense was even worse, allowing Iowa — which entered play 12th in the Big Ten in field goal percentage — to hit 10

of its first 15 shots.

The Terrapins got a little bit of traction behind Trimble and some full court pressure, but their horrid start was simply too much to overcome. White's dunk made it 34-13 Iowa with 2:03 left before halftime.

Dez Wells had 12 points for Maryland, which had 16 turnovers.

No. 20 Ohio State 79, Rutgers 60: Freshman D'Angelo Russell had 23 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds for his first college triple-double and No. 20 Ohio State took command early and rolled over host Rutgers, sending the Scarlet Knights to their eighth straight loss.

Jae'San Tate added 20 points and Keita Bates-Diop had 14 to help the Buckeyes (18-6, 7-4 Big Ten) bounce back from a loss at Purdue for their fourth time in five games.

Bishop Daniels had a season-high 17 points for the Scarlet Knights (10-15, 2-10), and Junior Etou added 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Ohio State never trailed, built a 21-point lead in the first half and extended it to 25 early in the second with Russell, Tate and Bates-Diop doing most of the damage.

Even when Rutgers made a late run and got to 69-57, Russell fed

Tate for a layup and hit a jumper to ice the game. He left with 2:47 to go to polite applause from the big crowd, which was bolstered by almost two dozen NBA scouts.

Stanford 70, USC 62: Chasson Randle scored 17 points, Stefan Nastic added 15 and host Stanford overcame a halftime deficit to beat USC.

Anthony Brown and Rosco Allen added 11 points apiece for the Cardinal (16-7, 7-4 in the Pac-12), who ended a two-game losing streak. Marcus Allen scored 10 points with 11 rebounds.

Katin Reinhardt scored 19 points and Jordan McLaughlin added 18 for the Trojans (9-14, 1-10), who lost their ninth straight.

Boise State 61, San Diego State 46: Derrick Marks scored 19 points, and Boise State hit 10 three-point goals to down visiting San Diego State.

The Broncos (17-6, 7-3 Mountain West) won their seventh consecutive game and beat the Aztecs (18-8, 8-3) for just the second time in history.

Rhode Island 79, Richmond 74: E.C. Matthews scored 26 points and Hassan Martin had 16 points and a career-high 16 rebounds, leading visiting Rhode Island past Richmond.

The Rams (16-5, 8-2 Atlantic 10) never trailed in winning their



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Iowa center Adam Woodbury, left, is fouled by Maryland forward Jake Layman while driving to the basket Sunday in Iowa City. The Hawkeyes downed the No. 17 Terrapins 71-55.

fifth in a row. They outrebounced Richmond 44-29 and withstood several rallies by the Spiders in the closing minutes.

Indiana 70, Michigan 67: Troy Williams had 20 points and eight rebounds to lead host Indiana past Michigan.

Yogi Ferrell had 18 points and

six assists, and James Blackmon, Jr. added 13 for the Hoosiers (17-7, 4-4 Big Ten), who have won two of three games.

Zak Irvin had 23 points and Ricky Doyle finished with 15 points and six rebounds for the Wolverines (13-11, 6-6), who have lost three straight.

Dean Smith's impact goes beyond UNC, basketball

By Aaron Beard

The Associated Press

Dean Smith accomplished so much on and off the court during his time as North Carolina's coach, leaving a lasting influence both on the game and the world around him.

He preached the value of team play and turned the Tar Heels program into a family, inspiring fierce loyalty in the countless players and coaches who came through Chapel Hill during Smith's 36-year tenure there. Away from the bench, Smith took stands on societal issues — most notably in civil rights — that resonated in the once-segregated South.

The retired Hall of Fame coach died "peacefully" Saturday, his family said in a statement released by the school Sunday. He had kept a lower profile amid health issues in recent years, with his family saying in 2010 he had a condition that was causing him to lose the memory that was once unshakable.

But his legacy never wavered. Here are some of the ways that Smith's presence will be felt at UNC, in college basketball and beyond for years to come.

Four corners: Seeing Smith hold up four



ROBERT WILLET, THE NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

North Carolina head coach Roy Williams, center, and his players observe a moment of silence in honor of former coach Dean Smith, during a basketball clinic for Special Olympics athletes Sunday in Chapel Hill, N.C. Smith died Saturday at the age of 83.

fingers meant the Tar Heels were ready to work the clock. That "Four Corners" offense was a slowdown strategy to control the game and lure the defense out to chase the ball. Most notably, UNC went to it in the 1982 Atlantic Coast Conference tournament final against Virginia and 7-foot-4 Ralph Sampson and turned a game between highly ranked teams into a crawl — the kind of moment that helped ultimately lead to the adoption of the shot clock.

Point to the passer: The rule was sim-

ple: when you score, point to the guy that passed you the ball to set up the basket. It was the epitome of Smith's attempts to deflect credit for all those wins — 879, making him the sport's winningest coach when he retired in October 1997 — to his players throughout his career.

Civil rights: Under Smith, Charles Scott became the first black scholarship athlete at the school in 1967 and one of the first in the South. It was just one example of why President Barack Obama honored Smith

with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013, saying Smith "pushed forward" the civil rights movement. But his efforts started early, with a teenage Smith even attempting — unsuccessfully at the time — to desegregate his high school basketball team in Topeka, Kan. "He stood on solid footing, whether it was popular or not," former UNC player Eric Montross said, "because he believed in it."

Shaping stars: More than 500 of his players went on to play in the NBA or ABA — none bigger than Michael Jordan, who called Smith "my mentor, my teacher, my second father." The list of great players coached by Smith includes Phil Ford, James Worthy, Sam Perkins, Brad Daugherty, Jerry Stackhouse, Rasheed Wallace, Vince Carter and Antawn Jamison — not to mention many others who had lower-profile careers or played overseas. "There are so many things I could say about Coach Dean Smith," Worthy tweeted Sunday, "but simply put, he is the greatest man I've ever known."

Coaching tree: Smith's coaching tree of former players and assistants starts with a pair of Hall of Famers in current UNC coach Roy Williams and SMU coach Larry Brown. But there have been other disciples such as George Karl, Jeff Lebo and Eddie Fogler who have led college or pro teams in the years since Smith's retirement. Others, such as Mitch Kupchak, have gone on to NBA front-office jobs. And that means Smith's legacy continues to last with many players who were too young to see him coach a game. "He gave me a chance but more importantly, he shared with me his knowledge," Williams said, "which is the greatest gift you can give someone."

SKIING/BASEBALL

Hirscher, Ligety surprise combined field

Helped by early slalom runs, Austrian, American win gold, bronze

By PAT GRAHAM
The Associated Press

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. — The snow conditions were a little bit of a sticky subject for everyone other than Marcel Hirscher and Ted Ligety.

Sticky, because the sun and soaring temperatures turned the slalom course into a groove-filled track that made attacking downright difficult for everyone else. Going first, Hirscher tore up the hill. Racing next, Ligety did, too. Two improbable medals from way, way back in the pack.

Hirscher, of Austria, made up a staggering 3.16 seconds in the slalom portion of the Alpine combined to win the gold medal at the world championships Sunday, with downhill leader Kjetil Jansrud of Norway hanging on for silver. Hirscher finished in a combined time of 2 minutes, 36.10 seconds. Jansrud was 0.19 seconds back. Ligety, the defending champion, earned bronze after going right after Hirscher, when the course was still holding up.

"We got lucky with the start numbers and how it deteriorated so fast," said Ligety. "This is definitely a surprise for sure."

The race had a scary moment when Ondrej Bank of the Czech Republic lost his balance on the final jump of the downhill and crashed hard on the snow, sliding across the finish line on his side. He suffered a concussion, bruised leg and facial cuts.

Bank was disqualified for straddling a gate. That bumped



FRANCIS BOMPARD, POOL/AP

American Ted Ligety holds up his medal after placing third in the men's combined Sunday.

Hirscher up from 31st to 30th, and the skier in 30th goes first in the slalom. A big advantage because had he started No. 31, well, "I wouldn't have won," Hirscher conceded.

No one could catch Hirscher after his nearly flawless slalom run.

"It's unbelievable," Hirscher said of winning the event that was formerly known as the supercombined. "My plans for this championships was, in the best case, to catch one medal, doesn't matter which color. I reached my goals. Everything that happens now is super good."

Jansrud, who's not known for his slalom, jumped out to a big lead on the tech specialists with his downhill run. As the 30th racer down the hill in the slalom, he had a "queasy" feeling in the start gate, knowing the conditions weren't

ideal for him. He charged ahead and turned in an impressive final run on deteriorating conditions to earn his first medal at worlds.

He was expected to win a medal in the super-G or the downhill, maybe even two, but he didn't. To pick up a medal in this event was a surprise, even to him.

"It's a great feeling to leave the champs with a medal," said Jansrud, who's skipping the giant slalom. "Coming in, everyone expected me to fight for golds and grab one. So, winning a silver in a discipline where I'm an outsider means a lot. It's way better getting on an airplane with a medal."

After a self-described "horrible" downhill run, Ligety didn't think he had a shot at a medal. Even more after finishing behind Hirscher's time in the slalom. Ligety didn't think his time would hold up — someone surely would knock him off the podium.

Didn't happen.

"I just skied with reckless abandon in the slalom run and made some mistakes, somehow lucky enough to hold on for a medal," said Ligety, who won three gold medals two years ago at worlds. "Pretty bizarre race, when you can go from 29th to the podium."

The softer snow definitely played a big role, even on a course that was rather tame.

"I earned it because I got lucky enough to start (No.) 2, more than anything," Ligety said. "On this softer snow, especially with the heat and the bottom flat, tough to have any kind of chance unless you're a really elite slalom skier."



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Austria's Marcel Hirscher made up a staggering 3.16 seconds during the slalom portion of the combined competition at the world championships on Sunday in Beaver Creek, Colo., to win gold.

Cuba wins its first Carriibbean series since 1960

By OCTAVIO BENITEZ
The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Cuba won its first Caribbean Series championship since 1960 with a 3-2 victory over Mexico on Sunday, highlighted by Yulieski Gourriel's eighth inning homer.

The victory marked a return for Cuba to its winning ways in the regional baseball series it used to dominate before Cuban stars were barred by its government in 1961 from playing professionally overseas. Cuba returned to the round-robin tournament last year but made a quick exit.

Cuba out-hit Mexico 11-4 on the way to this year's title, a day after dominating Venezuela 8-4 for a shot at the championship played this year in the U.S. Caribbean territory of Puerto Rico.

It was the first time that top Cuban players got a chance to compete on the U.S. island since Cuba and the United States moved to normalize relations. Dozens of major league scouts traveled to the Caribbean Series almost exclusively to assess Cuban talent.

Cuban starter Yosvani Torres



RICARDO ARBUENDO/AP

Cuba players celebrate after defeating Mexico 3-2 in the Caribbean Series baseball championship title game in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Sunday.

was dominant for six innings on Sunday night, striking out five. Frederick Cepeda had a two-out

RBI single, scoring Gourriel, in the first to give Cuba the early lead.

They went up 2-0 in the second inning when Luis Yander singled in a run.

Mexico pulled within a run in the fifth after Joey Meneses led off the inning with a double. He scored on a single by Walter Ibarra.

Cuba scored again in the eighth inning when Gourriel led off with a homer to left.

But Mexico, looking for its third consecutive title in the regional series, wasn't done yet.

In the bottom of the eighth, Eric Farris hit a two-out RBI single to right to make it 3-2 but Meneses flied out to right to end the inning.

"The Cuban team gave themselves more opportunities than we did offensively," Mexico Manager Benjamin Gil said.

Cuba's Cepeda, a 34-year-old outfielder who played in Japan last year, was selected tournament MVP. He went 6-for-8 during the team's last two games and drove in six runs.

It's the eighth time Cuba has taken the title at the Caribbean Series, which it won seven times between 1949 and 1960.

Two Cuban players defected in Puerto Rico early in this year's tournament.

Player	Pos	H	Wt	HT	A-S
I-Kobe Bryant, LAL	G	6-6	212	177	1
Stephen Curry, GS	G	6-3	190	120	2
Anthony Davis, NO	F	6-10	220	165	3
MarC Gasol, MEM	F	6-10	265	165	3
I-Blake Griffin, LAC	F	6-10	251	155	3
Reserves					
LaMarcus Aldridge, POR	F	6-11	240	140	3
DwD Cousins, SAC	G	6-11	270	150	3
Tim Duncan, SAC	F	6-11	250	150	3
Kevin Durant, OKL	F	6-9	240	140	6
James Harden, HO	G	6-5	225	135	3
R-Damian Lillard, POR	G	6-3	195	120	2
DeMar DeRozan, SAC	F	6-6	215	145	3
Klay Thompson, GS	G	6-7	215	155	3
Russell Westbrook, OKL	G	6-3	200	140	4
Coach: Steve Kerr, Golden State					
Assistant Coaches: Alvin Gentry, Ron					
Trainer: Pete Youngman, Sacramento					

Bulls 98, Magic 97

Chicago — Snell 3-0, 3-0, 8, Gasol 1-0, 1-0
5-6 2-5, Noah 7-4 1-8, Rose 4-4 1-2, 1-2
Butler 1-0 0-0, Gibson 1-0 0-0, Gibson
Snell 1-3 0-0, Moore 2-4 0-0, Mircotic 0-0
0-0 0-0. Totals 37 17-18-98.

Orlando — Frye 4-1 1-7, 1-5, Frye 4-
8 0-12, Vucetic 5-4 1-4 1-4, Payton 5-4
0-12, Orlando 8-16 1-18, Green 0-2 0-4
0-4, A.Gordon 1-2 0-0 3, O'Quinn 1-7 1-2 3,
Gibson 1-0 0-0, Dedmon 4-4 0-8, Totals 39-13-97.

Chicago 32 18 24 23-97
Orlando 30 29 29 23-98

The Point Guard Chicago 22-23-97
ler 3-4, Snell 2-7, Orlando 3-3, Brooks 1-4
Rose 1-4), Orlando 9-25 (Frye 4-8, Harris
2-5, A-Gordon 1-2, Oladipo 1-3, Fourme
1-0 0-0). Totals 39-13-97.
bounds—Chicago 39 (Gasol 15), Orlando 50
(Payton 9). Assists—Chicago 24 (Rose 11),
Orlando 24 (A.Gordon 10). Rebounds—Chi
cago 11, Orlando 24. A-16,844 (18,550).

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Coach: Steve Kerr, Golden State					
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Trainer: Pete Youngman, Sacramento					

NBA

Roundup

Raptors hold off cold Spurs, deny Popovich 1,000th win

The Associated Press

TORONTO — San Antonio's worst shooting performance of the season kept Spurs coach Gregg Popovich waiting for his 1,000th career win.

James Johnson scored a season-high 20 points in his return to the starting lineup, DeMar DeRozan had 18 and the Toronto Raptors beat San Antonio 87-82 Sunday night.

The Spurs shot 31-for-93 (.333), surpassing their previous low of .344 in a 98-81 defeat at Houston on Nov. 6.

"Poor execution and a bad night," said Manu Ginobili, who went 3-for-13. "A bad combination."

Amir Johnson added 15 points, Kyle Lowry 12 and Jonas Valanciunas had a season-high 16 rebounds as Toronto improved to 8-2 at home against Western Conference opponents. The Raptors snapped a seven-game losing streak against the Spurs and won for the first time in five home meetings.

"To hold a team like that to their season low is admirable," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "It shows how we have to play at grind it out."

Toronto, which rallied from a 20-point deficit to beat the Clippers on Friday, has won two straight after losses to Milwaukee and Brooklyn.

Tim Duncan and Marco Belinelli each scored 12 points, Kawhi Leonard had 11 and Tony Parker 10 for the Spurs, who had won nine of 11 coming in but couldn't get Popovich his milestone win.

"We're not trying to win for one person or another, we're trying to better our team and end strong (before the All-Star break)," a frustrated Duncan said.

Parker's three tied it at 75-all at 5:02, and Duncan made a pair of free throws at 3:40 to give San Antonio its first lead of the fourth quarter.

Lowry tied it again with a fade-away jumper but Belinelli's three at 2:20 restored San Antonio's advantage.

James Johnson scored a layup, Parker answered with a hook shot but Amir Johnson's dunk at 1:33 cut it to 82-81.

After the Spurs turned it over on a shot-clock violation, James Johnson hit a three with 49 seconds left, putting Toronto up 84-82.

Manu Ginobili and Belinelli both missed threes and James Johnson was fouled as he grabbed the rebound on Lowry's miss at the other end, making one of two with 4 seconds remaining.

After a Toronto foul, Duncan turned the ball over on the resulting inbound pass, giving the Raptors possession with 4 seconds left. DeRozan was fouled and sealed the win with a pair at the line.

Grizzlies 94, Hawks 88: Mike Conley had 21 points and six assists, Marc Gasol finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds and Memphis beat visiting Atlanta.

The game was tied at 86 after Mike Scott's three-pointer with 3:24 left before Memphis scored the next eight points to put away the game.

Trail Blazers 109, Rockets 98: LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points and Damian Lillard added 23 to help Portland fight off a late charge from host Houston.

James Harden tied a season high with 45 points for the Rockets, who are playing without star center Dwight Howard, out indefinitely with knee swelling.

Bulls 98, Magic 97: Pau Gasol dunked in the rebound of Derrick Rose's missed layup with 9.4 seconds left, and visiting Chicago rallied to beat Orlando.

Jimmy Butler led the Bulls with 27 points, and Gasol finished with 25 points and 15 rebounds. Joakim Noah added 18 points and nine rebounds.

Pacers 103, Hornets 102: George Hill's baseline layup with 4.9 seconds left lifted Indiana to a come-from-behind victory over host Charlotte.

C.J. Watson had 22 points and David West, Luis Scola and Rod-

ney Stuckey each had 15 as the Pacers battled back from a 21-point, third-quarter deficit for their third straight win.

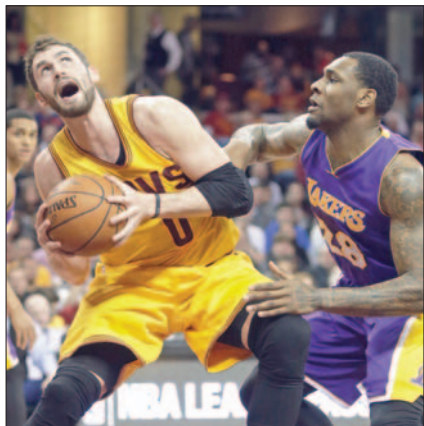
Timberwolves 112, Pistons 101: Nikola Pekovic scored 29 points and Kevin Martin added 24 to lift visiting Minnesota to its third straight victory.

Minnesota had not even won back-to-back games this season until this modest streak. The Timberwolves led throughout against the Pistons despite the absence of guard Ricky Rubio, who is still recovering from a left ankle injury. Andrew Wiggins scored 18 points for Minnesota, and Thaddeus Young added 16.

Kings 85, Suns 83: DeMarcus Cousins made a jumper as time expired and finished with 28 points and 12 rebounds as Sacramento beat visiting Phoenix at the buzzer.

It was the fourth loss on the final shot for the Suns, and like ones by the Clippers' Blake Griffin and Milwaukee's Khris Middleton that hit rim or backboard first, it wasn't a pretty one.

Cousins launched a 19-footer from the key that hit the rim several times before settling into the basket, setting of a huge celebration at midcourt by the struggling Kings.



MARK DUNCAN/AP

The Cavaliers' Kevin Love, left, tries to shoot against the Lakers' Tarik Black during Sunday's game in Cleveland. The Cavs won 120-105.

Love gets message, nets 32 in Cavs' win

By TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James sent a cryptic message to Kevin Love off the floor, then connected with him directly on the court.

Love scored a season-high 32 points, James flirted with a triple-double and the Cleveland Cavaliers bounced back quickly from a road loss with a 120-105 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday.

The Cavs had their 12-game winning streak snapped at Indiana on Friday, a run that started when they beat the Lakers on Jan. 15. Love helped get them back on track, making five three-pointers in the second quarter and two in the third as Cleveland opened a 26-point lead.

James scored 22 with 10 rebounds and eight assists — two on three-pointers by Love in a 30-second span — in three quarters. All-Star guard Kyrie Irving added 28 points and 10 assists.

It was the type of performance the Cavs have wanted more regularly from Love, who scored just five points and took only eight shots in Cleveland's loss to the Pacers. He also spent much of the fourth quarter that night on the bench. A few days earlier, Love scored five in a win over Philadelphia and went onto the floor afterward to work on his touch.

On Saturday, James sent out a tweet that many suspected was for Love. It said: "Stop trying to find a way to FIT-OUT and just FIT-IN. Be a part of something special! Just my thoughts."

James was asked if the tweet was for someone in particular.

"It was more about people in general," James told a large media group. "It was a general thought I had. Obviously, whatever thought I have people try to encrypt it and Da Vinci code it. People are always trying to fit out instead of fit in and be part of something special. That's what it's all about."

In October, Love said he was trying "not to fit in so much" with the Cavs, adding new teammates had encouraged him to "fit out. Just be myself."

Later, to a smaller group of reporters, James indicated the tweet was aimed at Love.

"It's not a coincidence, man," he said.

Rookie Jordan Clarkson scored a career-high 20 for the Lakers, who matched a franchise record with their 10th straight road loss. Los Angeles hasn't won away from Staples Center since Dec. 30. The Lakers also lost 10 in a row on the road in 1957-58 and 1963-64.

"I'm happy it's over," coach Byron Scott said. "I thought our guys were soft. We allowed them to do whatever they wanted. You can't play that way."

Love finished 11 of 18 from the field and added 10 rebounds. He was the last Cleveland player in the locker room, addressing the media long after James and others had left.

He sat in a chair at his locker and stared at the floor while answering questions. One of them was if he thought the Lakers would be an attractive option this summer, when he can opt out of his contract.

"I'm a Cleveland Cavalier," he said.



FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Spurs' Tony Parker, left, drives to the net against the Raptors' James Johnson during Sunday's game in Toronto. The Raptors won 87-82.

SPORTS



Trying to fit in?

Love responds to LeBron tweet with season-high 32 points » **NBA, Page 31**

PLAY BALL!



**Last season's College World Series finalists
Virginia, Vanderbilt among favorites again**

Season preview on Page 26

Virginia pitcher
Nathan Kirby
NATI HARNIK/AP

Charges against Panthers DE Hardy
dropped » **Sports briefs, Page 25**

Iowa sends No. 17 Maryland to third
straight road loss » **College hoops, Page 28**



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